

## NRA Heads To Texas For Convention



Barry Bailey gives his wife Judy a kiss, before having their 1873 Winchester shotgun appraised during the National Rifle Association's 142 Annual Meetings and Exhibits, Thursday, May 2, 2013, in Houston.

(AP Photo/Johnny Hanson)

### Associated Press

**AUSTIN, Texas (AP)** — The powerful U.S. gun lobby has spent much of the past year under siege, defending gun rights following mass shootings in Colorado and Connecticut and fighting mounting pressure for stricter laws across the country.

Now, after a major victory over President Barack Obama with the defeat of a gun control bill in the U.S. Senate, the National Rifle Association will gather in gun-friendly Texas this weekend for its annual convention.

"If you are an NRA member, you deserve to be proud," Wayne LaPierre, the NRA's brash chief executive wrote to the organization's 5 million members last week, telling them they "exemplify everything that's good and right about America."

Continued on Page 2



# Inspiring

A worker holds a guide rope as the final piece of spire is hoisted to the roof of One World Trade Center, Thursday, May 2, 2013 in New York.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)  
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## US flag-draped spire hoisted to NY's WTC roof



**Hagel:**

# US rethinking idea of arming Syrian rebels

**LOLITA C. BALDOR**

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Obama administration is rethinking its opposition to arming the rebels who have been locked in a civil war with the Syrian regime for more than two years, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said Thursday, becoming the first top U.S. official to publicly acknowledge the reassessment. During a Pentagon news conference with British Defense Secretary Philip Hammond, Hagel said arming the rebels was one option that the administration was considering in consultation with its allies. But he said he personally had not decided whether it would be a wise or appropriate move. "Arming the rebels — that's an option," he said. "You look at and rethink all options. It doesn't mean you do or you will. ... It doesn't mean that the president has decided on anything." Syria's two-year civil war has left an estimated



**Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, accompanied by British Defense Secretary Philip Hammond speaks during their joint news conference at the Pentagon, Thursday, May 2, 2013, where the talked about Syria.**

**(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)**

70,000 people dead and hundreds of thousands of refugees.

Hammond said his country was still bound by a European Union arms embargo on Syria, but he said Britain would look at the issue again in a few weeks when the ban expires and make

a decision based on the evolving situation on the ground.

Hagel's comments affirmed what had been a quiet but emerging dialogue within the Obama administration: That arming the rebels might be preferable amid growing indications that

the Syrian regime has used chemical weapons against its own people, an action President Barack Obama characterized last summer as a "game-changer" that would have "enormous consequences."

Asked for his thoughts on the issue Thursday, Obama

said the U.S. will continue to evaluate its options.

"We want to make sure that we look before we leap and that what we're doing is actually helpful to the situation as opposed to making it more deadly or more complex," Obama said at a news conference in Mexico.

Both Hagel and Hammond also indicated that strong evidence still was needed to provide a solid legal basis for any military action the U.S. or its allies might take. While neither would detail the evidence already collected from several reported incidents of chemical weapons use by the Bashar Assad regime, Hammond said the public still remembers that claims of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq in 2003 turned out to be untrue.

"There is a very strong view that we have to have very clear, very high-quality evidence before we make plans and act on that evidence," Hammond said. "If there were future use of chemical agents, that would generate new opportunities for us to establish a clear evidence of use to a legal standard of evidence."

Administration officials said Wednesday that arming the opposition forces was seen as more likely than any other military option. They cited U.S. intelligence beliefs that the rebels may be distancing themselves from the al-Qaida-linked group there. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss publicly the options under consideration.

Some senior leaders, including Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, have been publicly skeptical about the wisdom of arming the rebels because of concerns that U.S. weapons could end up in the hands of al-Qaida-linked groups helping the Syrian opposition or other extremists, such as Lebanon-based Hezbollah. □

## Fresh off victory, top US gun lobby has convention

**Continued from front**

Obama pushed for ambitious gun control measures after 20 young children and six adults were shot to death in December at a Connecticut school by a gunman with a legally purchased high-powered rifle. But lawmakers in Congress, under pressure from the NRA and its vocal members, kept the proposals from moving forward.

NRA spokesman Andrew Arulanandam predicted the convention will draw the largest crowd in its history. "The geography is helpful," Arulanandam said. "The current (political) climate helps."

The NRA couldn't have picked a friendlier place to refresh the troops. More than 70,000 people are expected to attend the three-day "Stand and Fight"-

themed event, which includes a gun trade show, political rally and strategy meeting.

Texas, with its frontier image and fierce sense of independence, is one of the strongest gun rights states in the country. More than 500,000 people are licensed to carry concealed handguns, including Gov. Rick Perry, who once bragged about shooting a coyote on a morning jog. And concealed handguns are allowed the state Capitol. Friday's big event is a political forum with speeches from several conservative leaders, including Perry, former Republican vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin, former presidential candidate Rick Santorum and Sen. Ted Cruz, a Texas Republican who has become one of the top conservative voices in Washington since being elected last year. LaPierre speaks to the convention on Saturday.

For NRA member Mike Cox, a concealed handgun

license instructor, the recent Senate vote showed not only the power of the NRA but demonstrated the need to recruit more members. "There's a lot of enthusiasm right now," Cox said. "This isn't over by any means." Gun control advocates say they will have a presence around the convention, with plans for a vigil for victims of gun violence, a petition drive to support background checks for gun purchases and a Saturday demonstration outside the convention center.

Sandy Phillips, whose daughter was killed in the Colorado theater shooting in July 2012, met privately with Cruz this week. She said Cruz refused to budge on expanding background checks on gun purchases and told her he considered it the first step toward government confiscation of guns. "They're always good at saying the right thing, 'I'm so sorry for your loss and da da da da da,'" Phillips said. "If you're really sorry

for my loss, do something about it." Despite polls that show most Americans favor some expansion of background checks, Ladd Everitt, spokesman for the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, said a big challenge is matching the NRA's grassroots organizing.

"The NRA knows this issue is very much in play. People were sickened by that Senate vote," Everitt said.

Sen. Joe Manchin, a Democrat who has supported gun rights in the past, has said he will re-introduce the bill to require criminal and mental health background checks for gun buyers at gun shows and online.

And despite their loss in Congress, gun control advocates have scored significant victories at the state level. Lawmakers in Colorado passed new restrictions on firearms, including required background checks for private and online gun sales and a ban on ammunition magazines that hold more than 15 rounds. □

## Weapon fired, gunman dead at U.S. airport

**MICHAEL GRACZYK**  
Associated Press

**HOUSTON (AP)** — A man who had fired a gun inside a ticketing area at Houston's largest airport was killed after being confronted by a law enforcement official during an incident that sent people in the terminal scrambling and screaming, police said Thursday.

It's unclear if the man fatally shot himself or was killed by a Homeland Security agent who had confronted him, said Houston police spokesman Kese Smith. The man's name was not released by police, but they said he was about 30-years-old.

Police say the man walked into the ticketing area in Terminal B at Bush Intercontinental Airport around 1:35 p.m. local time and fired at least one shot into the air. The agent, who was in his office, came out and confronted the man, telling him to drop his weapon, but the man refused, police said.

"The suspect then turned toward the special agent. The special agent, fearing for his safety and all the passengers in the terminal, discharged his weapon at the same time it appears the suspect may have shot himself," Smith said.

The man died at the scene. An autopsy will be conducted Friday.

Police would not say what kind of weapon the man had.

The terminal was closed, but the rest of the airport was still running. Houston police Capt. Dwayne Ready said the terminal was still an active crime scene and it was unclear when it would reopen.

Dale Howard, of Tomball, was at the baggage handling area of the airport waiting for his sister to arrive on an incoming flight when he heard two shots fired from the floor above. A few seconds later, he said he heard three more shots. □

## Obama, Pena Nieto talk economy, security

**JULIE PACE**

AP White House Correspondent

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — President Barack Obama sought on Thursday to tamp down a potential rift with Mexico over a dramatic shift in the cross-border fight against drug trafficking and organized crime, acceding that Mexicans had the right to determine how best to tackle the violence that has plagued their country.

Since taking office in December, Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto has moved to end the widespread access that U.S. security agencies have had in Mexico to tackle the violence that affects both sides of the border. It's a departure from the strategy employed by his predecessor,

Felipe Calderon, which was praised by the U.S. but reviled by many Mexicans. Obama said the shifting security relationship would not hurt cooperation between the neighboring nations. "I agreed to continue our close cooperation on security, even as the nature of that cooperation will evolve," Obama said during a joint news conference at Mexico's grand

National Palace.

"It is obviously up to the Mexican people to determine their security structures and how it engages with the other nations — including the United States."



President Barack Obama and Mexico's President Enrique Pena Nieto shake hands at a news conference at the Palacio Nacional in Mexico City, Thursday, May 2, 2013.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

Pena Nieto as well downplayed the notion that the new, more centralized arrangement would damage its security partnership with the United States. He said Obama agreed during their private meeting earlier in the day to "cooperate on the basis of mutual respect" to promote an efficient and effective strategy. Obama arrived in Mexico Thursday afternoon for a three-day trip that will also include a stop

in Costa Rica. Domestic issues followed the president south of the border, with Obama facing questions in his exchange with reporters about the potential escalation of the U.S. role in

tion debate is rife with potential political pitfalls. While he views an overhaul of the nation's patchwork immigration laws as a legacy-building issue, he's been forced to keep a low-profile role in the debate to avoid scaring off wary Republicans.

In an effort to court those GOP lawmakers, the draft bill being debated on Capitol Hill focuses heavily on securing the border with Mexico, and makes doing so a pre-condition for a pathway to citizenship for those in the U.S. illegally.

But Florida Republican Sen. Marco Rubio, one of the bill's architects, said Thursday that unless the border security measures are made even tougher, the legislation will face tough odds not only in the GOP-controlled House but also in the Democratic-led Senate.

The president acknowledged there were some areas along the 2,000-mile border between the U.S. and Mexico where security needs to be tightened. But he gently chided Rubio and other Republicans for putting up obstacles that would derail final legislation. □

## US flag-draped spire hoisted to NY's WTC roof

**MEGHAN BARR**

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Adorned with an American flag that flapped in the breeze, the last pieces of a silver spire were hoisted to the top of the World Trade Center on Thursday as construction workers cheered its ascent. The final two segments of the 408-foot spire will rest on a construction platform for several weeks until the entire needle is permanently installed. With the spire as its crown, the trade center will soar to a symbolic 1,776 feet (236 meters) in the air — a reference to the birth of the nation in 1776.

Sunlight glinted off the slender steel structure as it rose slowly into the blue

sky. Construction workers inside the building clustered around unfinished floor ledges to get a better glimpse of it. "It will give a tremendous indication to people around the entire region, and the world, that we're back and better than ever," said Steven Plate, who is overseeing construction of the World Trade Center.

Composed of 18 parts and weighing 758 tons, the spire floated into Manhattan several months ago on a barge. With a beacon at its peak to ward off aircraft, the spire will provide public transmission services for television and radio broadcast channels. An LED-powered light ema-

nating from it will be seen from miles away. The building is rising at the northwest corner of the site where the twin towers were destroyed in the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks. "It's not just a construction site," Plate said. "It's truly a mission for all of us." With the additional 408 feet (124 meters), the building would be the tallest in the U.S. and third-tallest in the world, although building experts dispute whether the spire is actually an antenna — a crucial distinction in terms of measuring the building's height.

Without the spire, One World Trade Center would actually be shorter than the Willis Tower in Chicago, which wears the crown of

tallest building in the U.S. at 1,451 feet (442 meters), not including its own antennas. The Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat, a Chicago-based organization considered an authority on such records, says an antenna is something simply added to the top of a tower that can be removed. By contrast, a spire is something that is part of the building's architectural design. The tower is slated to open for business in 2014. Tenants include the magazine publisher Conde Nast, the government's General Services Administration and Vantone Holdings China Center, which will provide business space for international companies. □



## Two workers removed from Saudi-owned US residence

**MATTHEW BARAKAT**

**Associated Press**

**McLEAN, Virginia (AP)** —

Immigration officials have removed two domestic workers from a Virginia home owned by the government of Saudi Arabia as part of an investigation into a report of human trafficking.

Agents went to the home in McLean on Tuesday night, Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokesman Brandon Montgomery said Thursday. Fairfax County police were called in to help.

Montgomery said the investigation is in the early stages. The two women who were removed from the home are from the Philippines, Montgomery said, but there has been no formal determination that they needed to be rescued. Officials received a tip that alleged two workers were being held in circumstances that amounted to human trafficking, said John Torres, ICE's special agent in charge for Homeland Security Investigations in the Washington field office. But he declined in an interview Thursday to discuss the case in more detail. ICE is investigating whether there may be other potential victims connected to the home, Torres said. He wouldn't discuss the specific allegations but said that generally in cases of domestic workers, ICE prioritizes those involving allegations of workers being held against their will or threats of violence against workers or their families.

According to real estate records, the Virginia home is owned by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Armed Forces Office. A representative of the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia could not be reached for comment Thursday. A guard at the gated home, near the CIA headquarters in Langley, waved off a request to speak to residents there Thursday morning.

At a press briefing Thursday, State Department spokesman Patrick Ventrell said that the agency

was aware of the case but that ICE is taking the lead on the investigation. He referred questions there.

Ventrell declined to answer specific questions about whether diplomatic immunity had been invoked. Countries traditionally grant immunity to foreign diplomats to receive reciprocal treatment for their own diplomats and to ensure open lines of communication. Ventrell said that in general, the State Department honors its treaty obligations that provide for immunity while expecting diplomats to observe and respect U.S. laws.

Trafficking cases have been a priority in recent years for the Justice Department, which reports that it has brought an average of 24 cases alleging forced labor in each of the past three fiscal years — nearly twice as many as the prior period.

Recent cases have involved an Italian government worker at the consulate in San Francisco who was prosecuted in 2011 for keeping a Brazilian woman as an involuntary servant. The same year, a naval officer from the United Arab Emirates was acquitted at a federal trial in Providence, Rhode Island, on charges that he had kept a Filipino woman as an unpaid servant.

Tiffany Williams, an anti-trafficking campaign coordinator for the National Domestic Workers Alliance, works specifically on the issue of diplomats exploiting domestic workers. She said such exploitation can be a particular problem in the diplomatic community because officials know they hold immunity, and it is difficult to punish them.

Generally, though, she said the underlying issue is no different than in cases involving the community at large: The power dynamic is tilted heavily toward the employer. Domestic workers' visas are tied to employment with a particular household, so quitting or standing up to abuse runs the risk of deportation. □



This house in McLean, Va., Thursday, May 2, 2013, owned by the government of Saudi Arabia, was investigated by the U.S. Immigration and Customs (ICE) officials on a report of human trafficking. An ICE official says agents went to the home in McLean on Tuesday night and removed the two possible victims of domestic servitude and Fairfax County police were called in to help.

(AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

## In campaign finance case: Former Liu associates are convicted

**BENJAMIN WEISER**

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**NEW YORK** — Two former associates of John C. Liu, the New York City comptroller and a Democratic candidate for mayor, were convicted Thursday for their roles in a conspiracy to funnel money to the Liu campaign through an illegal fundraising scheme.

Prosecutors had charged that the defendants, Jia Hou, a former Liu campaign treasurer, and Xing Wu Pan, a fundraiser, relied on straw donors — people whose contributions are reimbursed by others — to raise money and use some of it to obtain city matching funds. Pan was found guilty of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and attempted wire fraud. Hou, 26, was acquitted of conspiracy to commit wire fraud but was convicted of lying to federal agents and failing to fully respond to a grand jury subpoena that sought emails and other documents in what prosecutors said was an effort to cover up her role in the scheme. The trial and verdicts come at an inconvenient time for Liu, whose campaign finances have been under federal investigation for several years. He has not been charged with

a crime, and he has taken a defiant stand when asked about the inquiry, declaring at one mayoral forum that prosecutors should “put up or shut up already because I have an election to win.” In the trial, prosecutors portrayed the Liu campaign as riddled

fundraising goal.

Pan, meanwhile, organized a fundraising event in Chinatown in August 2011 at the request of a purported businessman from Texas who called himself Richard Kong and said he would donate \$16,000, which exceeded the \$4,950 limit for



Jia Hou, a former campaign treasurer for City Comptroller John Liu, outside court with Gerald Lefcourt, a lawyer, in New York, May 2, 2013. Jia Hou and Xing Wu Pan, a fund-raiser for Liu, the New York City comptroller and a Democratic candidate for mayor, were found guilty for their roles in a conspiracy to funnel money to the campaign of Liu through an illegal fundraising scheme.

(John Marshall Mantel/The New York Times)


with straw donors and the defendants' acts as merely fitting into a pattern. A former boyfriend of Hou, for example, testified that she had offered to reimburse him if he made a \$500 contribution to the campaign in July 2011, a time when Liu aides were trying to meet an internal \$1 million

individuals, through straw donors recruited by Pan.

Kong claimed to Pan, a New Jersey businessman who is in his mid-40s, that he wanted to make the donation because he hoped to open a chain of restaurants in New York and needed a friend in City Hall. □



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# Judge OKs release man charged with terror

**MICHAEL TARM**  
**Associated Press**

**CHICAGO (AP)** — A federal judge agreed Thursday to release on home confinement a U.S. teenager charged with trying to join an al-Qaida-linked militant group in war-torn Syria, in a rare move for terror cases. Abdella Ahmad Tounisi, 18, of Illinois, was arrested in an FBI sting last month at O'Hare International Airport last month as he allegedly prepared for the first leg of a trip to join the al-Qaida-affiliated group fighting Syrian President Bashar Assad's regime. In arguing for continued detention, prosecutors also noted Thursday that Tounisi had allegedly spoken with a friend of his last year about bombing targets in Chicago, prosecutors say. He is not charged in that case, though the friend, Adel Daoud, was and is in jail awaiting trial.

After announcing his surprise ruling, the otherwise soft-spoken U.S. magistrate judge leaned forward on his bench Thursday and raised his voice, telling the teenager he should take the allegations seriously. "This is no game, Mr. Tounisi. OK?" Judge Daniel Martin told him.

The slight, short Tounisi stood before the judge in orange jail garb and slippers, flanked by U.S. marshals. Some 30 friends and relatives sat on spectator

benches; several cried after the judge ruled. After ruling, the judge stayed his own order for 24 hours to give prosecutors a chance to appeal, which they announced later Friday they would do. A

Pressure on a judge to hold a terrorist suspect would be all the greater now, said Turner, in the wake of the Boston Marathon bombings. Prosecutor William Ridgway had argued that

Tounisi in a wiretap, "He will not die a martyr. He will die like road kill." The prosecutor said Tounisi also is a flight risk, noting how he had managed to secure a U.S. passport on short notice and to scrape



**Family and supporters of 18-year-old Abdella Ahmad Tounisi, including his father, Ahmad Tounisi, left, leave federal court Thursday, May 2, 2013, in Chicago, after a federal judge agreed to release the Illinois teenager charged with trying to join an al-Qaida-linked militant group in war-torn Syria. U.S. Magistrate Daniel Martin ruled Thursday that Tounisi could be released under home confinement. The Aurora man was friends with a man charged last year with trying to bomb a Chicago bar.**

(AP Photo/M. Spencer Green)

hearing in the matter was set for Friday. Approving the release of anyone accused on terrorism charges is uncommon, said Phil Turner, a former federal prosecutor and now private attorney in Chicago. "It's incredibly extraordinary," he said. "It's usually a different realm with terrorist suspects. They're not viewed as standard criminals but as enemies of the U.S."

Tounisi posed a threat to the community, saying he sought to hook up with the al-Qaida-linked group in Syria even after his friend Daoud's arrest. "One would think that would be a wake-up call," Ridgway said about the arrest. "But it didn't deter him." Tounisi persisted even as family and friends warned him not to get involved with extremists, Ridgway said. He quoted a friend as saying about

together money for a plane ticket. "He's very resourceful," Ridgway told the judge. But Tounisi's attorney, Molly Armour, said Tounisi came from a caring home and had no prior criminal record. She also said a terrorist-related charge shouldn't automatically deny release. "The word 'terrorism' is a word that tends to taint everything," she told the court. She also gestured to the back of the courtroom, where dozens of members of his community sat, assuring the judge they would also watch over Tounisi and see that he stays out of trouble. "They are committed to being part of his life," she said. "That offers a backstop to the family." □

## FBI: Mask in ricin case also had suspect DNA

**HOLBROOK MOHR**  
**Associated Press**  
**OXFORD, Mississippi (AP)**

— A dust mask that tested positive for ricin also contained DNA from a man suspected of sending poison-laced letters to President Obama and others, an FBI agent testified Thursday. The testimony came during a preliminary hearing for James Everett Dutschke, 41, who was arrested Saturday and charged with making ricin, the same substance mailed on April 8 to Obama, U.S. Sen. Roger Wicker and Mississippi judge Sadie Holland. Magistrate Judge S. Allan Alexander ruled that there was enough probable cause to send the case to a grand jury.

Dutschke's lawyer, George Lucas, waived a detention hearing but reserved the right to ask for one later. That means Dutschke will remain behind bars for now. FBI agent Stephen Thomason said on April 22, agents saw Dutschke go to his former martial arts studio in Mississippi and then throw items in a trash can down the street. One of those items was a dust mask that tested positive for ricin, he said. Thomason said the mask had DNA from two people on it.

He said Dutschke was the "major contributor." The agent did not say who else's DNA was on it. Dutschke is second person to be charged in the case. The first suspect, Elvis impersonator Paul Kevin Curtis, 45, was arrested on April 17, but the charges were dropped six days later. □

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## U.S. Financial Front:

## Economic reports hold out hope for hiring trends

C. S. RUGABER  
M. CRUTSINGER  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Fewer Americans are losing their jobs. Employers are struggling to squeeze more work from their staffs. The U.S. is producing so much oil that imports are plunging, narrowing the trade deficit.

A string of data Thursday raised hopes for stronger hiring and U.S. growth in coming months. More jobs would spur spending and help energize the economy, which has yet to regain full health nearly four years after the Great Recession officially ended.

And an interest rate cut Thursday by the European Central Bank, if it helps bolster the European economy, could also contribute to U.S. growth.

The U.S. economic reports came one day before the government will report how many jobs employers added in April. Economists think the gain will exceed the 88,000 jobs added in March, the fewest in nine months.

The government said Thursday that the number of Americans applying for unemployment aid fell last week to a seasonally adjusted 324,000 — the fewest since January 2008. Unemployment applications reflect the pace of layoffs: A steady drop means companies are shedding fewer workers. Eventually, they'll need to hire to meet customer demand or to replace workers who quit.

The four-week average of unemployment applica-

tions, which is less volatile than the weekly figure, sank to 342,250. That was near a five-year low.

The figures for unemployment applications "point to potential improvement moving into May," said Ted Wieseman, executive director of Morgan Stanley Research. The government also said Thursday that the

percent, after an even punier 0.6 percent rise in 2011. At the same time, the government said the U.S. trade deficit narrowed in March for a second month. The main reason: The daily flow of imported crude oil reached a 17-year low.

The trade gap shows how much the value of imports exceeds the value

less oil. Rather, surging U.S. production has reduced the need for imported oil. U.S. output averaged 7.2 million barrels a day for the four weeks that ended March 29, the Energy Department says. That's the most since 1992.

U.S. refiners have been taking advantage of low U.S. prices for oil and natural gas to produce fuels at much lower costs than their foreign competitors can. Despite some encouragement from Thursday's figures, the economy isn't growing fast enough to reduce high unemployment. The Federal Reserve reiterated Wednesday after a policy meeting that it plans to keep short-term interest rates at record lows at

least until unemployment falls to 6.5 percent from its current 7.6 percent.

The Fed also said it will continue to buy \$85 billion a month in bonds to keep long-term borrowing costs down and encourage borrowing and spending. And it signaled that it's open to expanding the bond buying if the economy needs it. Since last year, the U.S. recovery has been held back, in part, by weak manufacturing. Earlier this week, for example, an industry trade group said the growth of U.S. factory activity slowed in April to its weakest pace this year. Even so, some manufacturers, particularly auto companies, are strengthening. □



Kathie Maiello of Any-Time Home Care, left, talks with Jashod Chaney of Albany at the Dr. King Career Fair at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center, in Albany, N.Y.

(AP Photo/Mike Groll)

productivity of U.S. workers barely grew from January through March after shrinking in the last three months of 2012. Productivity shows how much employees produce per hour of work. When it remains weak, employers can't keep pulling more output from their staffs. As customer demand strengthens, they'll need to hire.

Productivity grew at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 0.7 percent in the January-March quarter. And that was after it shrank in the October-December quarter. For all of 2012, productivity rose a scant 0.7

of exports. A smaller trade gap is good for economic growth because it means America is exporting more while spending less on foreign goods.

The gap shrank 11 percent from February to \$38.8 billion. Exports fell 0.9 percent, led by fewer shipments of U.S. machinery, autos and farm products.

But thanks to reduced U.S. demand for imported oil, imports fell even more — 2.8 percent. Petroleum imports fell 4.4 percent. Crude oil imports averaged 7 million barrels a day, the fewest since March 1996.

The United States isn't using

## Rhode Island:

## State becomes 10th allowing gay marriage

DAVID KLEPPER

**PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island (AP)** — Rhode Island has become the 10th state to allow same-sex couples to marry following Gov. Lincoln Chafee's signature of gay marriage legislation. The independent governor signed the bill Thursday evening, shortly after the state House of Representa-

tives gave final approval to the bill.

Gay and lesbian Rhode Islanders erupted into cheers following the bill's signature.

The first marriages could take place Aug. 1, when the legislation would take effect.

While all other states in the northeastern New England

region already allow gay marriage, heavily Catholic Rhode Island had been a hold-out, with gay marriage bills failing to pass for nearly 20 years. That changed this year after more gay marriage supporters were elected to the General Assembly and advocates mounted an aggressive lobbying effort. □

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# US calls for North Korea amnesty for sentenced American

**M. PENNINGTON  
SAM KIM**

**Associated Press**

**PYONGYANG/WASHINGTON (AP)** — The U.S. called

Thursday for North Korea to grant amnesty and immediately release a Korean-American sentenced to 15 years' hard labor for "hostile acts" against the state. Kenneth Bae, 44, a Washington state man described by friends as a devout Christian and a tour operator, is at least the sixth American detained in North Korea since 2009. The others eventually were deported or released without serving out their terms, some after trips to Pyongyang by prominent Americans, including former presidents Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter.

Analysts say Bae's sentencing could be an effort by Pyongyang to win diplomatic concessions in the ongoing standoff over its nuclear program. But there was no immediate sign a high-profile envoy was about to make a clemency mission to the isolated nation which has taken an increasingly confrontational

stance under its young leader Kim Jong Un. State Department spokes-

man Patrick Ventrell said the U.S. was still seeking to learn the facts of Bae's

proceedings.

"There's no greater priority for us than the welfare and safety of U.S. citizens abroad, and we urge the DPRK authorities to grant Mr. Bae amnesty and immediate release," Ventrell told a news conference, referencing the socialist country's formal title, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

North Korea has faced increasing international criticism over its weapons development. Six-nation disarmament talks involving the Koreans, the United States, Japan, China and Russia fell apart in 2009. Several rounds of U.N. sanctions have not encouraged the North to give up its small cache of nuclear devices, which Pyongyang says it must not only keep but expand to protect itself from a hostile Washington. Tensions have escalated since it conducted its third nuclear test since 2006 in February.

Pyongyang's tone has softened somewhat recently, following weeks of violent rhetoric, including threats of nuclear war and missile strikes. There have been tentative signs of interest in diplomacy, and a major source of North Korean outrage — annual U.S.-South Korean military drills — ended Tuesday.

Patrick Cronin, a senior an-

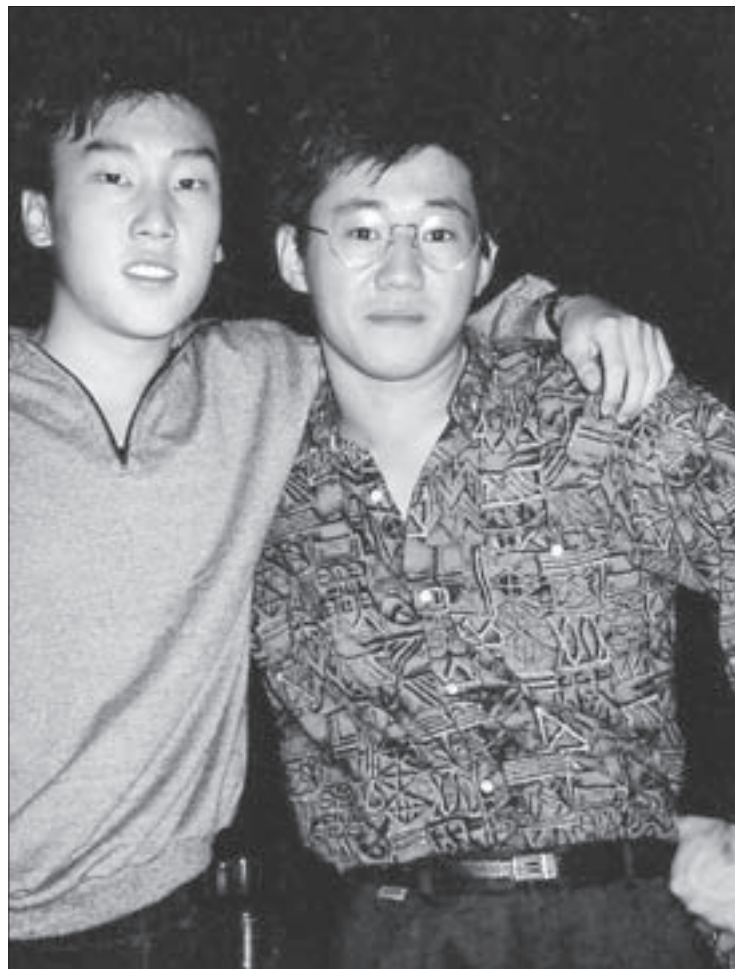
alyst with the Washington-based Center for a New American Security, called Bae's conviction "a hasty gambit to force a direct dialogue with the United States."

"While Washington will do everything possible to spare an innocent American from years of hard labor, U.S. officials are aware that in all likelihood the North Korean regime wants a meeting to demonstrate that the United States in effect confers legitimacy on the North's nuclear-weapon-state status," Cronin said in an email.

White House spokesman Jay Carney told reporters traveling aboard Air Force One en route to Mexico that if North Korea is interested in discussion, they should live up to their obligations under the six-party talks.

"Thus far, as you know, they have flouted their obligations, engaged in provocative actions and rhetoric that brings them no closer to a situation where they can improve the lot of the North Korean people or re-enter the community of nations," Carney said.

The state-run Korean Central News Agency announcement of Bae's sentencing came just days after it reported Saturday that authorities would soon indict and try him. □



A photo provided by Bobby Lee, shows Kenneth Bae, right, and Bobby Lee together when they were freshmen students at the University of Oregon in 1988. Bae is being detained in North Korea and could face the death penalty if he is convicted on charges that he planned to overthrow the North Korean government. (AP Photo/Bobby Lee)

case. He said the Swedish Embassy in Pyongyang, which handles consular matters there for the U.S., did not attend Tuesday's Supreme Court trial and that there hasn't been transparency in the legal

## Saudi Arabia's Health Ministry reports seven new cases of SARS-like virus

**RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)**

— Saudi Arabia's Health Ministry said Thursday that five people have died and two other patients were in critical condition with confirmed cases of a new respiratory virus related to SARS.

The ministry said in a statement that it had informed the World Health Organization of the seven new cases of novel coronavirus. The germ is from a family of viruses that cause the common cold, as well as SARS — the severe acute respiratory syndrome that killed some 800 people, mostly in Asia, in a 2003

epidemic. Health experts still aren't sure how humans are being infected. The new coronavirus, which can cause acute pneumonia and kidney failure, is most closely related to a bat virus and scientists are considering whether bats or other animals like goats or camels are a possible source of infection.

Since September 2012, WHO has been informed of 24 confirmed cases. Sixteen of the patients died. The new virus was first identified last year in the Middle East and several of the people infected had all traveled to Qatar, Saudi

Arabia, Jordan or Pakistan. WHO says the virus is probably more widespread than just the Middle East and has advised countries to test any people with unexplained pneumonia. In Saudi Arabia last year, four members of the same family fell ill and two died.

The Saudi government is conducting an ongoing investigation into the outbreak.

The seven people who contracted the virus are not from the same family and there is no indication that any of them were in contact with animals or had traveled recently. □



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# Amnesty: Syrian government, rebels hunt reporters

RAPHAEL SATTER  
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Amnesty

uprising, turning Syria into the world's deadliest country for journalists, accord-

26 days following his arrest by Syrian authorities in August 2011. In another case,

same rights they claim to be fighting for."

The report cites an August 2012 attack in which a crew from the Damascus-based Ikhbariya television was kidnapped by anti-government forces. Amnesty quotes news presenter Yara Saleh as saying cameraman Hatem Abu Yehyeh was killed by their captors almost immediately and that she was threatened with rape. In another case, citizen journalist Musab al-Hamadi said he was detained and threatened by a unit of the Free Syrian Army after he criticized them online.

Free Syrian Army spokesman Loay Almkdad said his group has never killed any journalist. He said by telephone that the Free Syrian Army rejects "any at-

tack on civilians no matter what their political stance is. We are strongly with the freedom of opinion."

"What is happening is that the regime kills some journalists — even if they are loyal (to the government) — in order to incite their families," he said.

There was no immediate comment from Syrian authorities on the report. Damascus, which has imposed a nearly complete ban on foreign journalists, rarely comments on allegations from outside rights groups. Amnesty's al-Bazzaz said that the journalists from both sides of Syria's political divide were unanimous in warning that the country's media workers were at grave risk — although she added that all remained defiant. □



Syrians carry a victim from the scene where a powerful explosion occurred in the central district of Marjeh, in Damascus, Syria. Amnesty International said Friday that Syria's government and elements of its rebel movement are deliberately targeting journalists, releasing a report which had blame for both sides in the country's civil war. (AP Photo/SANA)

International said Friday that Syria's government and elements of its rebel movement are deliberately targeting journalists, releasing a report which had blame for both sides in the country's civil war.

The London-based rights group acknowledges that the journalists' deaths — numbering somewhere between 44 and 100, depending on who does the counting — represent only "a miniscule fraction" of a death toll, which has climbed past 70,000.

But Amnesty's Noor Al-bazzaz said the attacks have threatened the flow of news to the outside world. "So much information that we have about the violations against civilians — from arrests to torture to the shelling and airstrikes — it wouldn't be known so much without the efforts of the journalists and citizen journalists in Syria," she said in a telephone interview ahead of the report's release.

Reporters labored under stifling restrictions even before the protests erupted in Syria in March 2011. Many were attacked, kidnapped, or killed as the protest movement morphed into an armed

ing to the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists.

Amnesty's report doesn't attempt to confirm the numbers reported by one group or another but it does flesh out stories of media abuse. One reporter, Miral Abdul Aziz Sheikh, told the rights group he was beaten every day for

a citizen journalist, Muaz al-Taani, says Syrian security forces bludgeoned his mother with a rifle butt in a bid to discover his whereabouts.

Al-bazzaz cautioned that while government abuses far outweighed the attacks attributed to Syrian's motley rebels, some insurgent groups "have violated the

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## Venezuela opposition demands probe of violence

**C. TOOTHAKER**  
**Associated Press**

**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)**

— Venezuela's opposition on Thursday asked prosecutors to investigate a brawl on the floor of congress that injured several of its lawmakers and forced at least one of them to undergo surgery.

Congressman Julio Borges, who suffered head injuries when ruling party member Michelle Reyes repeatedly struck him in the face, met with federal prosecutors to demand the probe into who was responsible for Tuesday's clash in the National Assembly.

"We were brutally attacked," Borges said, even as government officials argued that opposition lawmakers provoked the violence.

The extent of the violence is becoming clearer as opposition politician reveal the contents of videos recorded during the session. One video unveiled by opposition lawmakers on Thursday showed Reyes, a large man, lunging toward Borges, then landing numerous punches on each side of the opposition's politician's face.

At another point, a man standing among a group of ruling party members threw what appears to be a glass bottle at opposition lawmaker Eduardo Gomez Sigala as he fought off several aggressors.

The video also showed pro-government lawmaker Nancy Ascencio making a kicking movement as she stood over a person laying on the floor.

Immediately afterward, Ascencio shouted at the person below her and walked away as opposition law-

did not comment on Borges' demands. Prosecutor General Luisa Ortega is widely considered to be

would be nearly impossible because they enjoy immunity from most criminal charges. Machado underwent surgery Thursday on her nose, which she said was broken when political rivals threw her to the floor and repeatedly kicked her in the face. National Assembly president Diosdado Cabello has blamed opposition lawmakers for the violence because they blew whistles and air horns and unveiled a protest banner during Tuesday's session after Cabello refused to let them speak. The opposition is challenging the official result of the April 14 presidential election narrowly won by Nicolas Maduro, the hand-picked successor of the late President Hugo Chavez, who died earlier this year. □



**Opposition leader Henrique Capriles greets supporters in Caracas, Venezuela. Venezuelans filled the streets of the capital this week in rival marches by the opposition and the government after a brawl on the floor of congress injured several opposition lawmakers.** (AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

maker Maria Corina Machado was lifted off the floor. The Prosecutor's Office

a close ally of prominent ruling party members and prosecution of lawmakers

## Top Colombian investigative journalist attacked

**LIBARDO CARDONA**  
**Associated Press**

**BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)**

— The prize-winning investigations editor of Colombia's top newsmagazine said Thursday that he believes a roadside attack on him by gunmen who put five bullets in his car was related to his work.

Ricardo Calderon, 42, was uninjured in Wednesday night's shooting by at least two gunmen after he had stopped by the roadside to urinate in Girardot, a valley town southwest of Bogota. "Suddenly a silver sedan with tinted windows pulls up," said Calderon, who was alone at the time. "The passenger side window is open and they call me by name. And I turn around and a guy is pointing a gun at me and starts to fire."

Calderon said he was lucky that his car, the motor still running, was between him and the shooters. He

said he escaped by running and diving into a dark roadside ditch.

After the gunmen left, Calderon said he returned to his car and sped away, finding a police patrol car. "I almost couldn't get out of the car because my legs, everything, was shaking," he said.

Calderon has written sensitive stories including reports about illegal spying by the DAS domestic intelligence agency on judges, journalists and opposition politicians during the presidency of Alvaro Uribe that led to its dismantling and the jailing of more than 20 agents. Calderon also broke stories on links between far-right militias and politicians.

He has lately been investigating cushy conditions for military officers convicted of human rights violations held at a military base near Girardot. Calderon told

The Associated Press that he thought the attack was related his work but could not say who might have been behind it. He said he was returning home Wednesday night, in his wife's car, from a scheduled interview that never took place in the regional capital of Ibagué, across the Magdalena river valley. Calderon's car is armored but his wife's is not. Semana's editor, Alejandro Santos, said the attack was the first ever against a journalist from the magazine in its 30 years of publishing. While provincial journalists are periodically assassinated in Colombia for their work attacks on prominent journalists such as Calderon are extremely rare in Colombia, which is beset by a half-century-old civil conflict, drug-trafficking gangs and major human rights violations by actors including the military. □



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## Benedict XVI returns to Vatican for first time



Pope emeritus Benedict XVI, left, is welcomed by Pope Francis as he returns at the Vatican from the pontifical summer residence of Castel Gandolfo, 35 km South-Est from Rome, Thursday, May 2, 2013.

(AP Photo/Osservatore Romano)

NICOLE WINFIELD  
Associated Press

**VATICAN CITY (AP)** — Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI came home to the Vatican on Thursday for the first time since he resigned Feb. 28, beginning an unprecedented era for the Catholic Church of having a retired pontiff living alongside a reigning one.

Pope Francis welcomed Benedict outside his new retirement home — a converted monastery on the edge of the Vatican gardens — and the two immediately went into the adjoining chapel to pray together, the Vatican said. The Vatican said Benedict, 86, was pleased to be back and that he would — as he himself has said — “dedicate himself to the service of the church above all

with prayer.” Francis, the statement said, welcomed him with “brotherly cordiality.”

A photo released by the Vatican showed the two men, arms clasped and both smiling, standing inside the doorway of Benedict's new home as Benedict's secretary looks on.

Unlike the live, door-to-door Vatican-provided television coverage that accompanied Benedict's emotional farewell in February, the Vatican provided no television images of his return Thursday.

The low-key approach followed the remarkable yet somewhat alarming images transmitted on March 23 when Francis went to visit Benedict at the papal retreat in Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome,

where Benedict was living. In that footage, Benedict appeared visibly more frail and thinner only three weeks after resigning.

Some Vatican officials questioned whether those images should have been released, given how frail Benedict appeared. Thursday's photo showed no obvious signs of further decline.

The Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, has acknowledged Benedict's post-retirement decline but has insisted the 86-year-old German isn't suffering from any specific ailment and is just old.

“He is a man who is not young: He is old and his strength is slowly ebbing,” Lombardi said this week. “However, there is no special illness. He is an old man who is healthy.”

Benedict chose to leave the Vatican immediately after his resignation to physically remove himself from the process of electing his successor and from

Pope Francis' first weeks as pontiff.

His absence also gave workers time to finish up renovations on the monastery tucked behind St. Peter's Basilica that until last year housed groups of cloistered nuns who were invited for a few years at a time to live inside the Vatican to pray.

In the compact, four-story building, Benedict will live with his personal secretary, Monsignor Georg Gaenswein, and the four consecrated women who look after him, preparing his meals and tending to the household. The building also has a small library, a study and a guest room for when his brother, Monsignor Georg Ratzinger, comes to visit.

“It is certainly small but well-equipped,” Lombardi said. When Benedict announced his intention to resign — the first pontiff to do so in 600 years — questions immediately swirled about the implications of having two popes living alongside

one another inside the Vatican.

Benedict fueled those concerns when he chose to be called “emeritus pope” and “Your Holiness” rather than “emeritus bishop of Rome.”

He also raised eyebrows when he chose to continue wearing the white cassock of the papacy.

Given the political intrigues that plague the Vatican, it wasn't much of a stretch of the imagination to wonder if some cardinals, bishops and monsignors — not to mention ordinary Catholics — might continue making Benedict their point of reference rather than the new pope.

But Benedict made clear on his final day as pope that he was renouncing the job and pledged his “unconditional reverence and obedience” to his then-unknown successor. It was a pledge he repeated in person on March 23 when Francis went to have lunch with him. □



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## ECB cuts benchmark interest rate to 0.5%

BY DAVID McHUGH

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— The European Central Bank cut its key interest rate to a record low 0.50 percent Thursday and announced other measures to spur lending and help lift the euro area out of a stubborn recession.

ECB President Mario Draghi said the bank was prepared to flex its muscles further in the face of high and rising unemployment and growing evidence that Europe's economy is getting weaker. He said the ECB stood "ready to act if needed," but he also implored European governments — which responded to the region's debt crisis by slashing spending — to do more to stimulate economic growth.

On Wednesday, the U.S. Federal Reserve signaled it wouldn't rule out taking more action to boost growth and Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke warned America's political leaders that their policies were holding back the economy.

The ECB lowered its benchmark refinancing rate from 0.75 percent, as expected, at a meeting of its rate-setting council in Bratislava, Slovakia. And out of concern that Europe's financial industry is lending too cautiously and holding back business investment, the ECB also extended its offer of unlimited, cheap loans to banks at least through July 2014. Previously, the ECB had planned to end the program as soon as this July.

To jolt banks into lending more freely, Draghi said the ECB would even consider charging banks to deposit funds with the ECB. Since 2008, the ECB has reduced the interest rate it pays to banks on deposits from 3.25 percent to zero, creating an incentive for them to lend that money out instead.

Together, the measures announced by the ECB Thursday amounted to a grim recognition: despite record-low interest rates, European banks still remain risk-averse, while some

companies don't want to risk borrowing in a slow economy.

Draghi also delivered a warning to Europe's political leaders: extraordinary actions by the central bank will not be enough to heal the region's economy. Governments need

At this point, how low rates can go is "a relatively technical point" compared to the bigger issue of getting low rates transmitted to companies, she said.

Draghi had only a sketchy proposal Thursday of how to solve the problem, saying that ECB officials were



**European Central Bank's President Mario Draghi presents a new five euro note at the press conference during the Meeting of the Governing Council of the European Central Bank in Bratislava, Slovakia, Thursday, May 2, 2013.**

(AP Photo/CTK, Jan Koller)

to accelerate efforts to cut excessive regulations and make Europe a more hospitable place for business. The economy of the 17 European Union countries that use the euro certainly needs a boost. The ECB says the eurozone will shrink 0.5 percent for all of this year and unemployment is at 12.1 percent.

Companies across the region are hurting. Auto sales slumped in the first quarter, hitting profits at carmakers such as Daimler, Volkswagen and BMW.

BMW said Thursday that "we do not expect to receive a great deal of impetus from most European markets over the next few months." Many economists say clogged lending to small companies meant Thursday's cut will not do much good. Marie Diron, senior advisor to Ernst & Young, said her assessment was "slight disappointment that the ECB has done the bare minimum."

working with the European Union's executive commission and the European Investment Bank lending agency on a strategy to ease lending beyond lower rates. The idea under discussion was to create a market for securities, where loans to businesses would be packaged together and sold to investors — a step that could free up more money for loans.

Market reaction to the ECB decision in Europe was muted as the interest rate cut had already been priced in by investors. However, the euro tumbled against the dollar, down almost 1 percent to \$1.3063, after Draghi said he would not rule out taking the rate the bank offers lenders for deposits to below zero.

Most economists had expected a cut after recent economic indicators gave alarming signs that the ECB's prediction for a recovery by year-end might not be coming true. □

## The ECB rate cut impact

The Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — The European Central Bank influences the cost of borrowing in the economy of the 17-country eurozone by moving its key interest rate up and down.

Its main refinancing rate is the rate at which eurozone banks can borrow from the ECB. That affects the rate at which banks borrow from each other, the so called money-market rates.

Based on these rates, the banks then decide how much to charge consumers and businesses for loans and how much to pay on deposits.

Here's how ECB rate cuts can affect households, companies and markets:

### COMPANIES

Companies are affected by interest rate cuts in the same way as households. When taking out loans becomes cheaper, a company is more likely to spend and invest.

Small and medium-sized companies would feel the impact of a rate cut the most, since they depend on bank loans more than large corporations which can raise money by issuing corporate bonds.

One of the reasons that the eurozone economy is doing so poorly is that the smaller companies are struggling to get loans at affordable rates. They form the backbone of the European economy, so improving their performance is key to the continent's hopes of emerging from recession.

### HOUSEHOLDS

By lowering its key rate, the ECB hopes companies will invest in new jobs, which will help boosting consumer spending and the economy.

A rate cut should lead to lower costs for borrowing for consumers — both through cash loans and using credit cards — and in cheaper mortgage rates.

It also means that stashing money away in a savings account would yield less. That might encourage a saver to invest their money where returns are better. That investment, in turn, helps the economy.

However, a rate cut is not guaranteed to send people out to the shops. Some households are currently wary of spending because they are afraid they might lose their jobs — unemployment is at a record 12.1 percent in the eurozone. Others have seen their income reduced after governments in some countries have cut public-sector salaries and trimmed pension payments.

### MARKETS

An ECB rate cut typically boosts the stock market and hurts the currency, in this case the euro.

Stocks rise as investors bet that the cheaper borrowing rates will feed through to households and companies, boosting economic activity. The hope is that results in higher earnings for the companies whose shares the investors buy.

The euro would be weakened because the ECB's rate cut lowers the amount of interest that investors can earn from interest-bearing investments in that currency. A savings account, for example, will yield a lower rate of return.

Experts say that when central banks set their key interest rates at ultra-low levels — as is the case in the eurozone, the U.S., Japan and Britain — some investors borrow money cheaply to make speculative bets. That can cause surprisingly strong gains in some investments, such as stock or commodities. Some analysts say that is one reason the stock market has done so well this year, despite weak economic growth. □





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## Ruth's Chris celebrates 5th Anniversary with "Rat Pack Tribute" Dinner Show



**PALM BEACH, ARUBA** (May 2, 2013) – In honor of Ruth's Chris Steak House 5th anniversary, the steak house will host a special event on Monday May 6th, a "Rat Pack tribute" dinner show with live entertainment by Michelangelo and trio, performing hits of the trio Dean Martin, Sami Davis Jr. and Frank Sinatra.

For the occasion Ruth's Chris offers a 4-course set plated dinner menu at \$75 per person including New Orleans style barbequed shrimps, traditional Caesar salad,

Ruth's Chris famous sizzling petite filet accompanied with creamed spinach and mashed potatoes and to top it off a heavenly crème brulee as dessert.

The 5th anniversary celebration is on Monday May 6 and starts at 6:00 pm with a red carpet welcome followed by the dinner

show. Michelangelo and trio will entertain you with "Rat Pack's" favorite songs throughout the evening. Advanced reservations are required for the event and can be arranged by calling 520 6600 or 520 6225. Ruth's

Chris team looks forward to welcome you to celebrate their 5th anniversary.

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ture fashion ... "sizzling." To experience fine dining at its prime . . . just follow the sizzle to Ruth's Chris Steak House. For information and reservations, visit [www.RuthsChris.com](http://www.RuthsChris.com) or call 520-6225. □





## At Pure Ocean: Beautiful Sunset Wedding for Isabella & Pedro

**PALM BEACH** - Isabella Oropeza & Pedro Cardenas from Maracaibo Venezuela enjoyed a beauti-



ful sunset wedding at Pure Ocean surrounded by over one-hundred family members and friends who joined them on the water's edge for the happy occasion of their nuptials.

The lovely ceremony, and the exchange of vows under a flower-decorated canopy was followed by a cocktail hour, with several carving stations, a colossal fresh seafood display and trays loaded with imported cheeses and fruit.

Guests also enjoyed a lavish buffet dinner with assorted salads, just-caught coconut fried grouper, sirloin steak, and marinated chicken breast, escorted by roasted potatoes, and Rivera bean mix.

The spectacular dessert display prepared by the legendary pastry chefs of Window on Aruba, added a sweet and irresistible finish to a much-enjoyed banquet. Guests ate, drank and danced to the music of Tsunami, and DJ Jesse, of Swingmasters, late into the night. Over the past few weeks Pure Ocean



had the pleasure of organizing a number of spectacular parties for couples south of the border, mainly from Maracaibo, Venezuela, where society movers

and shakers have discovered Aruba and the Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort as the premier destination of choice for tropical weddings. □

### Beauty On The Beach

*Sandra Santelmo*

Living in Barcelona España She was born in Venezuela and her parents are born in Italy She works as a dentist in Spain. And this is her third visit in Aruba she is on vacation staying at a friends house



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## Brookton in the Bugaloe House! Welcome back Karen and Jim!

**PALM BEACH** - Bugaloe Brookton, MA! They have Beach Bar & Grill Guests been coming to Aruba for of the Week are Karen 25 years! The reason why and Jim Harrington from they have been coming

### May 12: Bugaloe Beach Volleyball Tournament!

**PALM BEACH**- Start practicing that volley and make sure you're ready for the popular Bugaloe Volleyball Tournament May 12! Organized by Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill in collaboration with CoolFM, locals are invited to participate in a day of fun. Team up in 6 (FUN) or 4 (ADVANCED) players, and ensure those trophies are yours! The relaxing beach tunes will be provided by our friends at Cool-FM and you can cool off in between matches with a cold beer! At the end of the day the Equator Band will take care of those bruised hips and aching muscles and makes you swing your way onto the dance floor!

Starting at 10 a.m. the tournament takes place at Palm Beach right in front of Bugaloe Beach Bar. Not only you can win some awesome prizes, but the event will combine a great day of fun with raising funds for Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad. This non-profit organization helps families in Aruba, living in poverty, meet their basic needs. The Food Bank, F.P.N.C. biggest project, provides food, clothing and furniture for these families. Make sure you sign up for a fun day with your friends, siblings or colleagues at [www.arubabeachvolleyball.com](http://www.arubabeachvolleyball.com) and mark the date in your calendar today! ☐



back for so long is because of Aruba's beautiful beaches, and of course spending lots of time meeting old and new friends at Bugaloe! What they like most

about Bugaloe are the people and the staff, that always knows how to entertain! Their favorite menu item is the Burger with a good

old Miller Lite! The Bugaloe Crew would like to thank Jim and Karen for being such loyal Bugaloe guests and hope to see them more often! ☐

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## At the Westin Aruba Art Gallery:

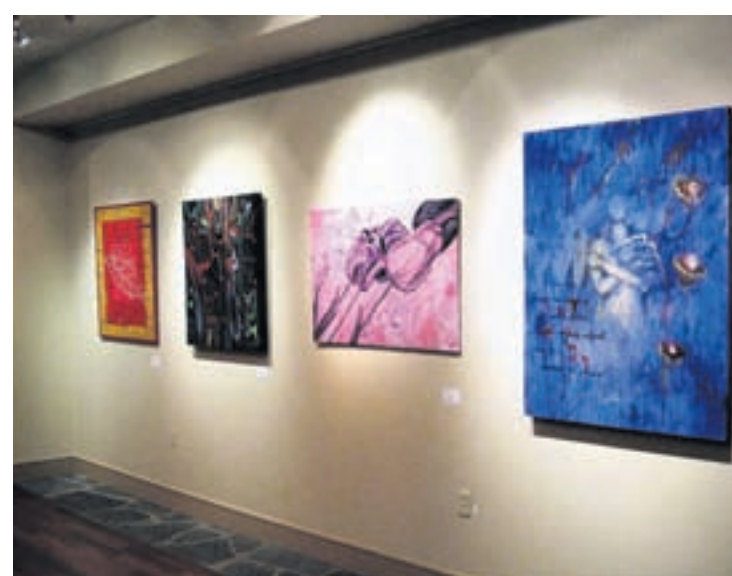
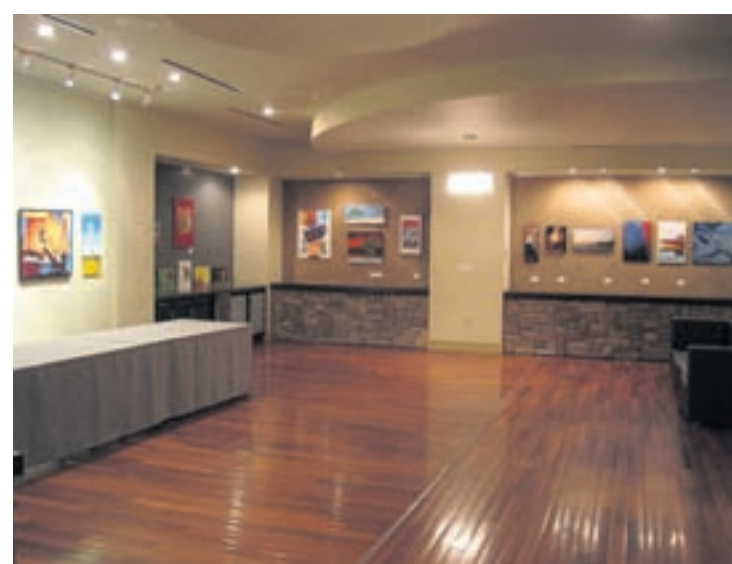
# Final week of the “Gallery’s Choice Display-April/May” 2013



**PALM BEACH** - If you have not visited the Westin Aruba Art Gallery lately, the current exhibition continues to May 10, 2013. Please come and visit us any time, the Gallery [WAAG] opens 7 days a week, which is located at the lobby level of Westin Aruba Resort & Casino.

Currently on display are the works of Annemiek van Vliet; Balinda de Veer; Deisy Gutierrez; Eduardo Valbuena; Eefje v/d Straten van Twillert; Estella Thode; Frank Croes; Gyzah; Irene Peterson; Jeanne Ecury; Michiko Takatsu; Reginald [Quake] de Palm; and selected Cuban paintings.

The gallery representatives will be present on Tuesday afternoon (3 pm – 6 pm), and Saturday (10 am – 1 pm) to answer all your questions or/and assist you for purchasing artworks. You can also reach us during office hours at: 588-2267, 740-2678 or 742-1987. And the following new exhibition will start on May 11 (Sat): Duo Photography exhibition by Ron Steens & Lex Corbach, with the opening reception starting at 8pm – 10pm, you are welcome to join us! -By Michiko Takatsu, curator at WAAG. □



## Westin Resort & Casino, Aruba Named the “Best Value Resort”

**PALM BEACH** — The Westin Resort & Casino, Aruba is proud to have been named the “Best Value Resort” in Islands magazine’s 2013 Best of the Caribbean: Readers’ Choice

Awards! The results of the survey were announced in the current May, 2013 edition now on newsstands and online. Congratulations to the Westin Resort & Casino, Aruba! □







## In the name of the father

**Oranjestad-** Former USBO Welterweight Champion, Former NABA Light Welterweight Champion, Former #1 ranked Light Welterweight Contender Hector Camacho Jr. (55-5-1, 30 KOs) will face relative newcomer Arturo Crespin (8-2-1, 3 KOs) on May 3 at the Centro Deportivo Betico Croes in Aruba. The bout will be a ten rounder headlining an eight bout card billed as "Boxing On Aruba, One Happy Island," sanctioned by the Aruba Boxing Commission.

Camacho was originally slated to face Jose Luis Castillo on May 3 in El Paso, but that fight is now off. If the name ring a bell, it's because it's the same as late great boxing champion, 'Macho Man,' Hector Camacho Sr.

Hector Jr., better known as Junior, has world class boxing abilities and a more than honorable record of 55 wins and 30 KOs to prove it. Blessed with talent and name, fame as well as infamy came fast for Junior.

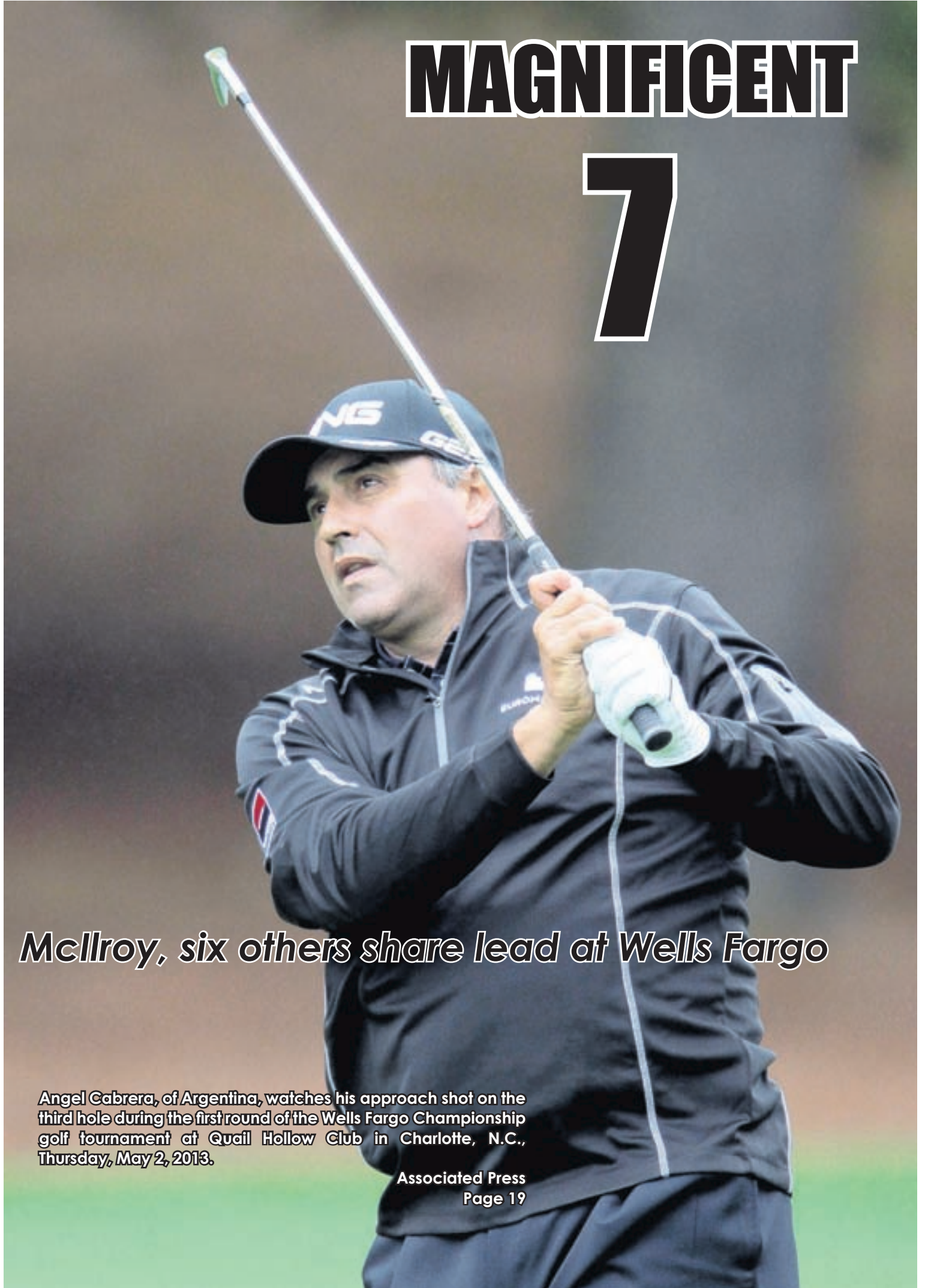
Continued on Page 18

# MAGNIFICENT 7

## McIlroy, six others share lead at Wells Fargo

Angel Cabrera, of Argentina, watches his approach shot on the third hole during the first round of the Wells Fargo Championship golf tournament at Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte, N.C., Thursday, May 2, 2013.

Associated Press  
Page 19





# Zimmermann, Desmond lead Nats past Braves 2-0

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Jordan Zimmermann turned in another dominant performance, allowing two hits over eight innings, and Ian Desmond hit a two-run homer in the fourth as the Washington Nationals finally beat the Atlanta Braves, 2-0 Wednesday.

The Braves had won five in a row this season over their NL East rival, and nine straight dating to last season.

Zimmermann (5-1) made sure that streak ended with another dominating performance, snapping a three-game losing streak that had knocked the Nationals under .500.

Atlanta starter Paul Maholm (3-3) nearly matched Zimmermann. He allowed only three hits in eight innings, retiring the last 13 batters he faced.

But Desmond provided all the runs that Washington needed, homering to left-center on a 1-1 pitch in the fourth after Bryce Harper led off with a walk.

## PIRATES 6, BREWERS 4

**MILWAUKEE (AP)** — Starling Marte hit a tying two-run homer in the eighth inning

and Brandon Inge had a go-ahead RBI single to rally Pittsburgh to a victory over Milwaukee, snapping the Pirates' nine-game losing streak against the Brewers. Pedro Alvarez added a run-scoring single to cap a four-run eighth as Pittsburgh won for the 10th time in its last 15 games and ended Milwaukee's eight-game home winning streak.

Bryan Morris (1-1) got the last two outs of the seventh for his first career victory. Mark Melancon pitched the eighth and Jason Grilli the ninth for his 11th save. John Axford (0-3) gave up all four runs while getting just two outs in the eighth for the Brewers.

## CARDINALS 4, REDS 2

**ST. LOUIS (AP)** — Lance Lynn won his 10th straight decision, allowing one run and five hits in seven innings to lead the Cardinals over the Reds.

Lynn (5-0) struck out five and walked two, improving to 10-0 in 10 starts and one relief appearing since losing to Milwaukee on Sept. 7.

It's the second straight quick start for Lynn, who



Washington Nationals starting pitcher Jordan Zimmermann watches his delivery during the seventh inning of the Nationals' baseball game against the Atlanta Braves on Wednesday, May 1, 2013, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

was 6-0 with a 1.48 ERA through May 7 last season, then went 12-7 with a 4.46 ERA the rest of the way.

## METS 7, MARLINS 6

**MIAMI (AP)** — Jordany Valdespin hit a three-run, pinch-homer as the Mets rallied to break a six-game losing streak and avert a

series sweep, beating the Marlins.

The Mets' dormant offense finally came alive after they fell behind 4-1. Valdespin put New York ahead to stay in the sixth inning with his second homer, and NL RBIs leader John Buck added a two-run double in the seventh. Buck and David Wright each had three of New York's 13 hits. Wright hit his third homer for the Mets, who totaled only 11 runs during their losing streak.

## CUBS 6, PADRES 2

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Scott Feldman retired 18 straight on his way to his first career complete game and the Cubs took advantage of former No. 1 pick Andrew Cashner's wildness in a 6-2 win over the Padres.

Feldman (2-3) earned his second straight win, allowing two runs and three hits while walking one. After Chase Headley singled with two outs in the first, Feldman retired the next 18 batters. Feldman had 12 strikeouts to set a new career high. He also had an RBI double in the second to give the Cubs a 2-0 lead. □

## Camacho Jr.

Continued from Page 17

He took boxing for granted, and the brutal sport returned the favor in kind. The wait [for a championship fight], the weight [undisciplined training] combined with the grind of the game [all that's good and bad] was taking a toll on him. But after so many rounds and wins, Hector Jr. never got the call for a major title shot.

After a couple of tough losses by way of KO, Camacho lost his desire and ring focus.

No news highlights, no sports headlines just a slow fade into anonymity. Hector Camacho Jr. became a journey man fighter\_nobody's punching bag nor the training partner to fame. No.

Never uncomfortable being Macho man's son and spending his entire life in

the spotlight, Camacho Jr. had become an intermittent boxer trying to figure out who is Hector Camacho Jr. In 2010, he got the answer.

Camacho had a spiritual awakening and converted to Islam, he states, "that just Spiritual health and looking for God. I've been on that path for the last few years. Everybody around me is Muslim. And watching them and seeing how they carrying themselves, I needed that Spiritual health for myself." Hector Camacho Jr. is back. His ambition to be a world champion is back.

He is ready to fulfill the great Camacho legacy. And so it is with the newer version of himself, entering the ring and do battle.

This Hector Jr. is now a wily veteran polishing up his resume with hopes of finally earning a well-deserved title shot. Quietly he has



Photo: Chris Cozzone

been putting in the rounds and wins on the international scene, which bring us here to Aruba. Aruturo Crespin is veritable nobody

looking to become somebody with what every has in his glove, a lucky punch. This is a great opportunity Crespin, as well as a great

boost for the Aruban boxing scene. Hector Camacho, not the boxer, but the name behind Guns Down, Gloves Up foundation.

The name packs an even bigger punch in Puerto Rico where he lends his name combined with his father's legend to turn kids from the street and into sport and technology.

"I want to eliminate firearms from the streets. I want to take children off the streets," Camacho Jr. said. "If I can save 10 lives, that is something good."

"A bullet took my father's life. Guns down, gloves up. I will help the children of Puerto Rico so that they may have a better future. Young people deserve something better in Puerto Rico." One round at a time is how he's building up his charitable organization, with a portion of ticket proceeds going directly to the foundation. □



# Rory McIlroy opens with 67 at Wells Fargo

**DOUG FERGUSON**

**AP Golf Writer**

**CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP)** — For all the talk about the greens, Rory McIlroy's most important club was his driver Thursday in the Wells Fargo Championship.

McIlroy kept the ball in play at Quail Hollow and gave himself plenty of birdie chances on a cloudy, soft afternoon. He ran off six birdies in a seven-hole stretch around the turn and finished with an 8-foot birdie putt for a 5-under 67 to share the lead with six other players.

It was the first time this year McIlroy has been atop the leaderboard after any round, and the first time he broke par in the opening round.

"Now that I feel like I'm swinging it well, this is the sort of golf I expect to play," McIlroy said.

Nick Watney, Ryan Moore, Robert Garrigus and PGA Tour rookie Derek Ernst shot 67 in the morning. Daniel Summerhays and Nate Smith, a Monday qualifier, joined McIlroy by posting their 67s in the afternoon.

Phil Mickelson and Lucas Glover were in a large group at 68, with 19-year-old Jordan Spieth in another big group at 69.

The talk going into the Wells Fargo Championship was the shape of the greens. Two of the putting surfaces had to be entirely replaced by sod just a week ago — the 10th green had to be sodded twice — and the other greens were ragged. Some had ugly patches of brown where there was no grass.

But they weren't as bad as players feared, and there wasn't much public grumbling, mainly because Quail Hollow has a history of being in pristine shape and players seemed willing to accept this is an exceptionally bad year.

"It was fine," Boo Weekley said after his 68. "First off, they were pretty smooth. It ain't 100 percent, but I mean they're good enough to play golf on." The bigger problem was

cool, soft conditions that made Quail Hollow seem longer than usual. That's why McIlroy was so pleased with missing only three fairways. The greens weren't smooth, but they were soft enough that getting into position off the tee was pivotal in setting up birdie chances.

"They're not the best greens that we've ever putted on, but they're certainly not the worst, either," McIlroy said. "The ball still

back with an up-and-down birdie on the par-5 10th and an approach into 8 feet on the 11th for another birdie.

His biggest scare came on the 18th, when McIlroy looked nervously down the left side of the fairway as the ball flirted with the winding creek, barely clearing the water. From there, he hit 8-iron that stopped close to where it landed, and he made an 8-foot putt that bounced

ple of bad habits on my swing, and it just took me a little bit of time to get out of them."

One tweak he made after the Masters with swing coach Michael Bannon was to keep his hips more stable.

Garrigus missed only two greens and figures he should be have been twice as much under par as he was.

"I absolutely striped it all day," Garrigus said. "I

different spots than players typically see, as officials looked for sections of the green that had the lushest grass to cut the holes. The idea was to at least keep the bumps to a minimum in a 4-foot radius around the hole.

Smith was the biggest surprise, mainly because he had to qualify for the tournament on Monday. He also had the most unusual golf bag. Smith played a prank earlier in the week



**Rory McIlroy, of Northern Ireland, watches his tee shot on the fourth hole during the first round of the Wells Fargo Championship golf tournament at Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte, N.C., Thursday, May 2, 2013.**  
Associated Press

rolls pretty well on them. As long as you give yourself chances for birdies, that's all you can ask. ... If you drive the ball well, you can really take advantage of that. And for the most part today, I did drive the ball well."

McIlroy got into the mix quickly with four straight birdies — two of them on the par 5s, a 7-iron to 3 feet on the par-3 sixth hole, and a big drive on the short, par-4 eighth that left him a flip wedge into about 3 feet. A tee shot that found the rough on the ninth led to bogey, but the world's No. 2 player bounced

more than it rolled.

It's just one round, though it feels like a long way from a few months ago. The start to the season for McIlroy was marked by a missed cut, a first-round loss in the Match Play Championship, walking out of the Honda Classic from frustration after 27 holes and loads of speculation about his decision to change equipment after last year.

Thursday was another step in the right direction.

"It's big strides because my game wasn't where it should have been at all at the start of the year," McIlroy said. "Got into a cou-

could have shot 10 or 11 under today if I had made some putts. I was hitting it really close all day. I didn't get frustrated. I just kept hitting it. I'm very confident right now and hitting it really well."

Summerhays and Smith each reached 6 under until bogeys on the 17th hole. Smith missed a 5-foot par putt, and immediately tapped down a section of the green on the line of his putt.

That was a typical reaction on this day, and probably won't change much during the week.

The hole locations were in

on James Hahn, who returned the favor. Hahn posted a message on the bag in the locker room asking players to sign it for charity. They do that all the time, though it's not usually the bag a player uses in the tournament.

There were some 60 autographs on the bag.

"A little embarrassing when you're playing as a Monday qualifier," Smith said. "You don't want people to be making fun of you. But I kind of had it coming from James, so it's all in good fun. I'll be getting him back. So don't you worry about that." □



## NHL Playoff Roundup

# Pens romp past Islanders, Bruins, Sharks win

**The Associated Press**

**PITTSBURGH (AP)** — Pascal Dupuis scored twice and Marc-Andre Fleury made 26 saves as the top-seeded Pittsburgh Penguins opened the playoffs with a 5-0 romp over the New York Islanders on Wednesday.

Beau Bennett, Kris Letang and Tanner Glass also scored for the Penguins, who had no trouble against the upstart Islanders even with star Sidney Crosby sidelined by a broken jaw. Crosby has been out since he was struck by a puck on March 30 in a game against the Islanders.

Fleury earned his sixth career playoff shutout.

The Penguins, the No. 1 seed in the Eastern Conference, beat Evgeni Nabokov four times in the game's first 22 minutes, including goals by Letang and Dupuis 32 seconds apart early in the second period to send Nabokov to the bench after he stopped just 11 shots.

Kevin Poulin came on in relief and surrendered a soft goal to Glass.



**A goal by Pittsburgh Penguins' Pascal Dupuis, not seen, gets past New York Islanders goalie Evgeni Nabokov (20) and defenseman Travis Hamonic (3) during the first period of Game 1 of an NHL hockey Stanley Cup first-round playoff series against the New York Islanders, Wednesday, May 1, 2013, in Pittsburgh. The Penguins won 5-0.**

Game 2 is Friday in Pittsburgh.

**BRUINS 4, MAPLE LEAFS 1**  
**BOSTON (AP)** — Nathan Horton scored the go-ahead goal late in the first period as Boston used a revived offense to beat Toronto in the playoff series opener.

The Bruins scored more

than three goals for the first time in 10 games. They closed the regular season on a 2-7 skid that dropped them to the No. 4 seed in the Eastern Conference.

That set up a first-round matchup with fifth-seeded Toronto, the first time the teams have met in the postseason since 1974.

The Maple Leafs, who are in the playoffs for the first time since 2004, lost four of their last six regular-season games.

Wade Redden also scored in the first period for Boston, and David Krejci and Johnny Boychuk added goals in the second.

James van Riemsdyk had

given Toronto a 1-0 lead with a power play just 1:54 into the game.

Game 2 is scheduled for Saturday night in Boston, where the Bruins have won six straight against the Maple Leafs.

**SHARKS 3, CANUCKS 1**

**VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)** — Dan Boyle and Patrick Marleau scored in the third period for San Jose, which rallied to beat Vancouver in the first-round Western Conference series opener.

Boyle and Logan Couture both had a goal and an assist, and Marleau pushed San Jose's lead to 3-1. Antti Niemi made 28 saves for the Sharks, who were out-shot 30-28.

Kevin Bieksa scored for the Canucks before a disappointed white-towel-waving sellout crowd. The loss spoiled a strong effort from goalie Roberto Luongo, who earned the start after Cory Schneider didn't recover in time from an undisclosed injury.

The Canucks were the first home team to lose in the first six games of this year's playoffs. □



**Boston Red Sox starting pitcher Clay Buchholz throws against the Toronto Blue Jays during the first inning of their baseball game, Wednesday, May 1, 2013, in Toronto.**

**TORONTO (AP)** — Clay Buchholz pitched seven shut-out innings to earn his major league-leading sixth win and Mike Napoli hit two of Boston's five home runs as the Red Sox routed the Toronto Blue Jays 10-1 on Wednesday.

Stephen Drew hit a two-run shot in the second inning and Napoli went back-to-back with Daniel Nava in the fourth as the Red Sox

won their majors-best 19th game.

Napoli hit a solo shot in the fourth, followed that with a three-run shot in the seventh and also doubled in the ninth. He now has six homers and leads the majors with 21 extra-base hits. Buchholz (6-0) allowed two hits, walked three and struck out eight, improving to 7-0 in his past eight starts at Toronto. The right-

## AL Capsules

# Buchholz wins again as Red Sox rout Blue Jays 10-1

hander lowered his ERA to an AL-best 1.01.

Blue Jays left-hander Mark Buehrle (1-2) surrendered three home runs for the second straight start and has allowed nine home runs in six starts this season for the Blue Jays, who have lost seven of their last nine games. Buehrle gave up five runs and seven hits in 6 2-3 innings.

**ANGELS 5, ATHLETICS 4**  
**OAKLAND, California (AP)** — Mark Trumbo went deep for the third consecutive day, and Howie Kendrick and Mike Trout also homered as Los Angeles beat Oakland to end a four-game losing streak.

C.J. Wilson (3-0) remained undefeated despite a sea-

son-high five walks. He allowed two runs on six hits in 6 1-3 innings. Wilson struck out five and stranded six runners in scoring position. Josh Donaldson, Nate Freiman and Luke Montz each had an RBI double for the A's, who had a three-game winning streak snapped. Adam Rosales also drove in a run.

Tommy Milone (3-3) gave up four runs on seven hits over seven innings. He did not walk a batter and matched his career high with 10 strikeouts. Milone has lost three consecutive starts.

**YANKEES 5, ASTROS 4**  
**NEW YORK (AP)** — Robinson Cano homered and Eduardo Nunez scored

the tiebreaking run after a sixth-inning double to send New York past Houston.

Ben Francisco hit his first home run for New York and three relievers supplied spotless work after fill-in starter David Phelps wasted a four-run lead.

With the score tied 4-all, Nunez doubled down the left-field line against Paul Clemens (1-1) to begin the sixth. Nunez advanced on a wild pitch and, with one out and runners at the corners, Wesley Wright was brought in to face Ichiro Suzuki, who put the Yankees ahead with a ground-out. Boone Logan (2-1) got the win and Mariano Rivera closed for his 11th consecutive save. □



## NBA Playoff Capsules

# Celtics win at Knicks, close series gap to 3-2

The Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Kevin Garnett had 16 points and 18 rebounds and the Boston Celtics stayed alive in

6 on Friday night, needing two victories to become the first NBA team to overcome a 3-0 deficit to win a series.



Boston Celtics center Kevin Garnett (5) deflects the ball from New York Knicks forward Carmelo Anthony (7) as Celtics forward Brandon Bass (30) and Knicks center Tyson Chandler (6) watch in the second half of Game 5 of their first-round NBA basketball playoff series at Madison Square Garden in New York, Wednesday, May 1, 2013. The Celtics won 92-86.

Associated Press

the NBA playoffs, cutting the New York Knicks' lead to 3-2 with a 92-86 victory Wednesday night. The Celtics will host Game

Brandon Bass added 17 points, steadying Boston as it shook off an 11-0 deficit and pulled away in the second half to stop the

Knicks again from their first playoff series victory since 2000. J.R. Smith, back from his one-game suspension for elbowing Jason Terry with the Knicks way ahead late in Game 3, missed his first 10 shots and finished 3 of 14 for 14 points. Terry also scored 17 off the bench. Jeff Green scored 18 points and Paul Pierce had 16 as the two franchise stalwarts extended this season — and perhaps their Celtics careers — at least one more game. Carmelo Anthony scored 22 points but was just 8 of 24 in another dismal shooting night for the Knicks. Pacers 106, Hawks 83 INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — David West scored 24 points and Paul George had 21 points and 10 rebounds to lead Indiana to a 3-2 series lead.

The Pacers have all won three home games in the best-of-seven series and are 5-0 at home this season against the Hawks. They'll go to Atlanta on Friday with a chance to clinch the best-of-seven series.

# Damian Lillard is NBA Rookie of the Year

ANNE M. PETERSON

AP Sports Writer

**PORTLAND, Oregon (AP)** — Portland Trail Blazers point guard Damian Lillard has been unanimously chosen the NBA's Rookie of the Year.

Lillard, the sixth overall pick in last June's draft out of Weber State University, led all rookies with a 19-point scoring average.

He also averaged 6.1 assists and 3.1 rebounds, playing in all 82 games this season.

Lillard broke Stephen Curry's rookie record for 3-pointers in a season, finishing with 185. He is the fourth player in league history to win the Eddie Gottlieb Trophy rookie of the



Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard poses with the trophy after being named NBA basketball's Rookie of the Year on Wednesday, May 1, 2013, in Portland, Ore. Lillard also swept all six of the league's Rookie of the Month awards this season.

Associated Press

year unanimously, joining Blake Griffin in 2011, Da-

vid Robinson in 1990 and Ralph Sampson in 1984.□

But the Hawks have won 13 straight at home against the Pacers, including both games in this series. Atlanta was led by Josh Smith and Al Horford, who each had 14 points. And it was every bit as ugly as the Hawks' first two double-digit losses in Indy. Indiana took the lead for good midway through the second quarter and opened the third period on a 12-3 run to make it 62-46. The Pacers put it away when the Hawks lost their composure.

Rockets 107, Thunder 100 OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — James Harden scored 31 points and sank seven 3-pointers while fighting through flu-like symptoms, and the Houston Rockets beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 107-100 Wednesday night to pull within 3-2 in their first-round playoff series. Harden made the first seven 3s he tried and Houston led by as many as 16 before fending off a rally that Oklahoma City helped stymie with its own strategy.□

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Nicolas Cage Emma Stone

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# Study: Food, skin allergies increasing in children

**MIKE STOBBE**  
**AP Medical Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Parents are reporting more skin and food allergies in their children, a big U.S. government survey found.

Experts aren't sure what's behind the increase. Could it be that children are growing up in households so clean that it leaves them more sensitive to things that can trigger allergies? Or are mom and dad paying closer attention to rashes and reactions, and more likely to call it an allergy?

"We don't really have the answer," said Dr. Lara Akinbami of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the senior author of the new report released Thursday.

The CDC survey suggests that about 1 in 20 U.S. children have food allergies. That's a 50 percent increase from the late 1990s. For eczema and other skin allergies, it's 1 in 8 children, an increase of 69 percent. It found no increase, however, in hay fever or other respiratory allergies.

Already familiar with the trend in food allergies are school nurses, who have

grown busier with allergy-related duties, like banishing peanuts at school parties or stocking emergency allergy medicine.

Sally Schoessler started as school nurse in 1992 in New York state, and didn't encounter a child with a food allergy for a few years. But by the time she left school nursing in 2005, "there were children in the majority of classrooms" with the disorder, said Schoessler, who now works at the National Association of School Nurses in Silver Spring, Md.

Food allergies tend to be most feared; severe cases may cause anaphylactic shock or even death from eating, say, a peanut. But many food allergies are milder and something children grow out of. Skin conditions like eczema, too, can be mild and temporary.

It's been difficult getting exact numbers for children's allergies, and the new report isn't precise. It uses annual surveys of thousands of adults interviewed in person. The report compares answers from 1997-1999 to those from 2009-2011.

Parents were asked if — in

the previous year — their child had any kind of food or digestive allergy, any eczema or skin allergy, or any kind of respiratory allergy like hay fever.

The researchers did not ask if a doctor had made the diagnosis or check

For example, hives are sometimes blamed on a certain food when a virus was the actual cause, he added.

But experts also said they believe there is a real — and unexplained — increase going on, too.



**Banishing peanuts from the party isn't going far enough: parents are reporting more skin and food allergies in their children, a big U.S. government survey found. (Handout Photo)**

medical records. So some parents may have been stating a personal opinion, and not necessarily a correct one.

"We see a lot of kids in clinic that really aren't" allergic to the foods their parents worry about, said Dr. Morton Galina, a pediatric allergist at Atlanta's Emory School of Medicine.

One of the more popular theories is "the hygiene hypothesis," which says that exposure to germs and parasites in early childhood somehow prevents the body from developing certain allergies.

The hypothesis argues that there is a downside to America's culture of disinfection and overuse of an-

tibiotics. The argument has been bolstered by a range of laboratory and observational studies, including some that have found lower rates of eczema and food allergies in foreign-born children in the U.S.

There could be other explanations, though. Big cities have higher childhood allergy rates, so maybe some air pollutant is the unrecognized trigger, said Dr. Peter Lio, a Northwestern University pediatric dermatologist who specializes in eczema.

Some suspect the change has something to do with the evolution in how foods are grown and produced, like the crossbreeding of wheat or the use of antibiotics in cattle. But Lio said tests haven't supported that. Emory's Galina said the new CDC statistics may reflect a recent "sea change" in the recommendations for when young children should first eat certain foods.

In families with a history of eczema or food allergies, parents were advised to wait for years before introducing their young children to foods tied to severe allergies, like peanuts, milks and eggs. But professional associations changed that advice a few years ago after research suggested that allergies were more likely in those kids when the foods were delayed.

The old advice "was exactly the wrong thing to do," and could have contributed to some of the increased cases, Galina said.

The CDC report also found: — Food and respiratory allergies are more common in higher-income families than the poor,

— Eczema and skin allergies are most common among the poor.

— More black children have the skin problems, 17 percent, compared to 12 percent of white children and about 10 percent of Hispanic children.

The mother of a 13-year-old girl, who is black, runs an eczema support group in suburban Washington, D.C. □

**UK:**

## Police to track dementia patients using GPS

**MARIA CHENG**  
**AP Medical Writer**

**LONDON (AP)** — A British police force is hoping to save time and money by giving a few dementia patients GPS tracking devices, a technique already used by health and welfare agencies but condemned by some campaigners as "barbaric."

Last week, Sussex police in southeast England announced a plan to buy GPS devices for a few people with dementia who are at high risk of getting lost. The police couldn't say how many devices would be bought but have invested >600 (\$935) into the program. Each tracking device costs about >28 (\$43) a month, which will be paid by the family of the dementia patient.

The device can be worn

around the neck or attached to a keychain. It sends the person's GPS location to a website every four minutes. The information can also be accessed by the patient's family. Chief Inspector Tanya Jones described it as a "cost-effective" strategy which would save police time and resources by not having to frequently search for lost patients.

The National Pensioners Convention on Wednesday slammed the idea as inhumane, arguing patients could be stigmatized and made to feel like criminals. "Dementia patients need human interaction, not tagging," Dot Gibson, general secretary of the group, said in a statement. Dementia patients "haven't committed any crime — they've just grown

old," she said. "This is just about saving money rather than treating people with dignity."

Bernard Stoneham of Chichester recently signed up his wife Gill, who has dementia, for the device after a neighbor found her wandering near a busy road. The day after she got the GPS tracker, Stoneham used the service to find his wife after she got lost and then fell down on a short walk.

"All I can say is how grateful I am to have had the use of this piece of hi-tech wizardry and what a difference it makes at this difficult time in our lives," Stoneham said in a statement released through the local government council. Tracking devices for dementia and other vulnerable patients are increas-

ingly used by Britain's health and social services agencies but this is the first time police have been involved.

A program called Project Lifesaver is used by about 1,250 law enforcement agencies in the U.S. and Canada.

Participants get a plastic bracelet with a waterproof radio transmitter that officers can use when alerted to quickly locate a person. In the U.S., the Alzheimer's Association sells a device and system that alerts families when the patient leaves a designated zone. In March, a sheriff in Utah proposed using ankle monitors for Alzheimer's patients.

Some experts said the GPS technology could be enormously helpful if used properly. □



# Clean technology investors shift focus to drilling

**JONATHAN FAHEY**

**AP Energy Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A decade ago, large investors in so-called clean technology had a straightforward goal: finance companies that would help eliminate the world's dependence on oil, natural gas and coal.

But as profits from wind, solar, biofuels and other alternatives consistently fell short of expectations — and as the fossil fuel business boomed — things got complicated. Venture capitalists and other investment funds started stretching the definition of clean technology almost beyond recognition in an effort to make money while clinging to their environmental ideals.

Today, clean technology investment funds are not trying to replace the fossil fuel industry, they're trying to help it by financing companies that can make mining and drilling less dirty. The people running these funds acknowledge the apparent hypocrisy, but defend a more liberal definition of clean technology.

"Oil and gas will be with us for a long time. If we can clean that up we will do the world a great service," says Wal van Lierop, CEO of Chrysalix, a Vancouver,

Canada-based venture capital firm founded in 2001.

Chrysalix still backs companies that fit the more traditional definition of clean energy — including BridgeLux, which makes more efficient light bulbs, and Agilyx, which turns plastic waste into fuel. But the firm, whose website boasts that it is "100 percent focused on clean energy" is a backer of MineSense, which helps miners operate more efficiently by assessing the quality of ore as it is being scooped. It also supports GlassPoint, which helps drillers extract more oil by using steam generated with solar power.

Environmentalists have mixed feelings. They welcome technologies that reduce the environmental footprint of oil and gas development. But they worry the newfound abundance of oil and natural gas — and all the money that can be made helping drillers — has distracted clean technology backers from what once seemed to be their main goal: to make oil and gas a thing of the past.

Mark Brownstein, who runs the energy and climate program at the Environmental Defense Fund, says "some don't have the stomach for that and are

simply going with the flow." The shift has made even those who are helping to drive it squirm.

"We've wrestled with it," says Alan Salzman, managing partner of VantagePoint Capital Partners, one of Silicon Valley's most prominent venture firms focused on clean technology. "If someone comes up with a more benign way of (exploiting fossil fuels), is that a good thing or a bad thing?"

If fossil fuels become more palatable to society, Salzman says, we may end up burning more of them.

Ten years ago it seemed as if the world was running out of oil, and what was left of it was in the Middle East. Oil and natural gas prices spiked to alarming highs. And scientists showed that fossil fuels were causing troubling changes to the climate. Pushing for an end of the fossil age made sense for economic, political and environmental reasons.

This had Silicon Valley venture capitalists drooling. "Cleantech" as they called it, would be the next big thing. And it was going to be very, very big. These firms saw a chance to profit from what many thought would be the biggest economic shift in history — from



In this March 29, 2013 photo, a worker checks a dipstick to check water levels and temperatures in a series of tanks at an Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc. hydraulic fracturing operation at a gas drilling site outside Rifle, Colorado.

Associated Press

fossil energy to renewable energy.

But the new energy technologies proved much harder to master than predicted. And oil and gas drillers, using technology advances of their own, learned how to unlock enormous new reserves of fossil fuels. Dozens of solar, biofuels and battery companies failed, unable to show enough promise to go public or attract the attention of bigger companies. "Investors are still waiting for their cleantech investments to produce returns," says Dallas Kachan, who runs the San Francisco clean technology consulting firm Kachan & Co.

"Nobody's seen the stellar home runs they were hoping for 5 years ago."

Even when clean energy companies have gone public, they haven't fared well. An index of clean energy companies is down 69 percent since it began in 2005. A similar index of traditional energy companies is up 75 percent over the same period.

The value of global clean technology deals fell 29 percent last year to \$7 billion, from a record \$9.9 billion in 2011, according to the Cleantech Group. But the portion of that sum focused on conventional fossil fuels nearly tripled, to a record \$556 million. □

# Sore thumbs? U.S. text messaging declines

**PETER SVENSSON**

**AP Technology Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Americans are saying goodbye to text messaging, a wireless industry group says, as Internet-based applications such as Apple's Messages are starting to taking over from what was once a cash cow for phone companies.

**CTIA** — The Wireless Association says Americans sent 2.2 trillion text messages last year, down 5 percent from 2011. That's still 19 text messages per person per day. Text messages vaulted into the mainstream in 2007, despite often costing 10

cents each. Costs came down quickly as phone companies started selling monthly "bundles" of texts. Now, many phone companies give text messaging away for free as part of a plan that mainly meters the amount of data used. That has helped stave off mass migration to Internet chat applications and Facebook messaging in the U.S., making the decline somewhat surprising, said Pamela Clark-Dickson, an analyst with Informa Telecoms & Media in Britain.

In countries where phone companies have kept the cost of text messaging

high, the use of chat applications such as WhatsApp has exploded. Informa estimates that the number of messages sent through such services worldwide exceeded those sent by text last year.

The text message, or Short Message Service, was created in France and Germany in the 1980s as part of the specification for the "GSM" digital cellphone standard. The first commercial services appeared in Europe in the '90s.

Clark-Dickson said text messaging will likely remain popular as a way to communicate with people who



A BlackBerry Q10 smartphone is displayed in Toronto, Tuesday, April 23, 2013. In the Q10, the keyboard and touchscreen work together. On BlackBerrys, the keyboard has always been about more than filling in text fields, and the new operating system takes that further.



# US stocks rebound after unemployment claims fall

**STEVE ROTHWELL**  
**AP Markets Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The U.S. stock market is all about jobs this week.

Stocks rose Thursday after unemployment claims fell to a five-year low. A day earlier it was just the opposite; the market slumped after companies added just 119,000 jobs in April, the fewest in seven months, according to payroll processor ADP. And stocks could swing again Friday when the government's closely watched monthly employment report is released.

"Everyone is looking to the April jobs numbers," said Tyler Vernon, chief investment officer at Biltmore Capital. "People are more confident that it was an anomaly last month and are looking for some bigger numbers."

Economists forecast that the employers added 160,000 jobs last month. Stocks slumped April 5 when the government said 88,000 jobs were added, less than half the number forecast.

Signs of increased hiring have supported this year's surge in stocks and pushed the market to record highs. The run-up has started to falter in recent weeks on concerns that the global

economy is slowing. More jobs should boost consumer spending, a key driver of U.S. growth.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 130.63 points to 14,831.58 on Thursday, an increase of 0.9 percent. The index lost 138 points a day earlier. The Standard & Poor's 500 index climbed 14.89 points, or 0.9 percent, to 1,597.59, also recovering almost all of its losses from a day earlier.

Applications for unemployment benefits fell last week to 324,000, the fewest since January 2008, the Labor department reported before the market opened.

The outlook for global growth also got a boost after the European Central bank cuts its benchmark interest rate a quarter of a percentage point to 0.5 percent.

The euro fell a penny against the dollar to \$1.3060. The price of gold rose \$21.40, or 1.5 percent, to \$1,467.60 an ounce. The price of crude oil rose \$2.96, or 3.3 percent, to \$93.99 a barrel.

Higher profits from CBS, Facebook and other companies also lifted stocks Thursday.

Broadcaster CBS reported a 22 percent jump in first-quarter earnings as big

events like the Super Bowl pushed advertising revenue higher. Its stock rose 95 cents, or 2 percent, to \$47.35.



**Trader Joseph Tarangelo works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Thursday, May 2, 2013. Stocks ended higher on Wall Street, a day after the market's biggest fall in two weeks, after General Motors and other big companies announced higher profits.** (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

GM rose 98 cents, or 3.2 percent, to \$31.16 after it lost less money in Europe and beat Wall Street's expectations for first-quarter

profit. The automaker's earnings of 67 cents a share beat the 54 cents predicted by Wall Street analysts who follow the

Street expectations. Nearly a third of the company's advertising revenue came from mobile devices, a greater share than analysts had expected.

The social networking site bucked the trend for companies reporting in the first quarter. Most are exceeding analysts' expectations on earnings, but falling short on revenue.

"If we continue to see several more quarters like this, investors would start to get nervous," said Andrew Milligan, head of global strategy at Standard Life Investments. He says that growth needs to pick up in the major export markets, like China and Europe, for U.S. companies to maintain earnings growth.

Facebook's earnings also boosted information technology stocks. The industry rose 1.4 percent, the most of the 10 groups in the Standard & Poor's 500 index. Technology stocks have surged in the past two weeks, after lagging the S&P 500 in the first three months of the year. Their 5.7 percent increase in 2013 still trails the 18.5 percent gain for health care companies, the best performing industry in the index.

Seagate Technology was another technology company that gained Thursday. The company, which makes hard drives, jumped \$2.69, or 7.3 percent, to \$39.63, even after the company reported a slump in sales and earnings. The decline wasn't as bad as analysts had expected, though, and Seagate handily beat estimates for both sales and revenue. Earnings at companies in the S&P 500 are at record levels.

They are forecast to increase by 4.4 percent in the first quarter and keep rising throughout the year, according to S&P Capital IQ data.

Gains for technology companies helped push the technology-heavy Nasdaq composite higher. The index advanced 41.49 points, or 1.3 percent, to 3,340.62. □

## LinkedIn 1Q net, revenue soar; outlook falls short

**MOUNTAIN VIEW, California (AP)** — LinkedIn Corp. continued its uninterrupted streak of beating analysts' expectations with its quarterly results on Thursday as earnings and revenue soared, but its outlook for the rest of the year disappointed Wall Street and its stock plunged in extended trading.

Shares of the online professional networking service fell \$21.67, or 10.8 percent, to \$180 after hours. The stock had closed above \$200 for the first time after hitting a record high of \$202.91 earlier in the day in anticipation of the results. LinkedIn Corp. earned \$22.6 million, or 20 cents per share, in the first quarter. That's up from \$5 million, or 4 cents per share,

in the same period a year earlier. Adjusted earnings were 45 cents per share in the latest quarter, well above analysts' expectations of 30 cents.

Revenue grew 72 percent to \$324.7 million from \$188.5 million. Analysts, on average, had expected revenue of \$317.6 million, according to a poll by FactSet.

LinkedIn went public in May 2011 at a share price of \$45. Its stock has soared since as the company has consistently beat expectations with its results. As of Thursday's closing, the Mountain View, California-based company's stock was up 75.6 percent year to date, compared with a 12 percent increase for the Standard & Poor's 500

index.

LinkedIn has thrived by establishing itself as the go-to place for employers to find talented workers and for people to get job tips and other advice to manage their careers. It doesn't cost anything for people to set up a professional profile on the site — the company makes most of its money by charging employers and headhunters for analytical tools and additional access to LinkedIn profiles and the site, such as the ability to send messages to users.

LinkedIn's forecast for the current quarter and the full year implied that its winning streak could end. The company said it expects revenue between \$342 million and \$347 million for the

April-June period. Analysts had forecast \$360 million.

For the full year, LinkedIn expects revenue of \$1.43 billion to \$1.46 billion, an increase of its previous guidance range by \$20 million but still below analysts' forecast of \$1.5 billion.

Another figure that likely gave investors pause is LinkedIn's EBITDA forecast, said Wedbush analyst Michael Pachter. The company expects this figure — earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization — to be \$330 million to \$345 million for the full year, below analysts' expectations of \$363 million.

LinkedIn said it has 225 million members, up from 202 million at the end of last year. □



## Intel's CEO pick sticks to formula

**MICHAEL LIEDTKE**

**AP Technology Writer**

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — In picking Brian Krzanich as its next CEO, Intel Corp. stuck to a familiar playbook amid a game-changing shift in computing that has raised worries about the future of the world's largest chipmaker.

Ever since Intel co-founders Robert Noyce and Gordon Moore ceded their roles as the first two CEOs, the company has always promoted the second-in-command to the helm.

But if there is a time to break from that tradition, this would be it. Traditionally strong in personal computers, Intel is facing a threat from smartphones and tablet computers, which demand lower-energy processors that Intel is late to master.

"We are a little disappointed that the board didn't bring in new blood at this critical juncture for the company," Wedbush Securities analyst Betsy Van Hees said. "We have seen a pretty significant shift in

that effort is successful, the company's profit margins may be squeezed. That's because mobile chips sell for much less than PC chips.

Some analysts believe that Otellini, who is 62, decided to retire early because of the industry turmoil. The board had expected him to remain CEO until he turns 65 in 2015.

"It's time to move on and transfer Intel's helm to a new generation of leadership," Otellini said in November when he disclosed



**Intel Corp. Vice President and General Manager of Assembly and Test Brian Krzanich makes a speech at Saigon High Tech Park, Ho Chi Minh city, South Vietnam. Intel said Thursday, May 2, 2013, that it has chosen Krzanich, as its new CEO to steer the world's largest chipmaker in a world where PC sales are cratering while smartphones and tablets thrive.**

(AP Photo/Le Quang Nhat)

That started in 1987 with Andy Grove, who served as the top lieutenant under the co-founders. After learning the ropes under Grove, Craig Barrett took over as CEO in 1998 and then handed the reins to his understudy, Paul Otellini, in 2005.

Krzanich, Intel's chief operating officer, was named its sixth CEO on Thursday. He will start in two weeks. The succession formula worked well in a computing market dominated by desktop and laptop machines that ran on Intel's microprocessors and Microsoft Corp.'s Windows operating system.

the tide, and they are now navigating some pretty tough currents. It would have been nice to have a fresh pair of eyes."

PC sales are declining as businesses and consumers embrace mobile computers — most of which don't rely on Intel's chips. Microsoft has even created a lightweight version of Windows that isn't well suited for Intel's processors. The upheaval contributed to a 15 percent decline in Intel's profit last year.

Intel has been scrambling to develop power-sipping chips and designs better suited for the needs of mobile devices. But even if

his plans to leave.

His retirement created an opportunity for the Santa Clara, California, company to hire an outsider as CEO for the first time in its 45-year history. Although external candidates were considered during the six-month search, the board concluded that Krzanich is the best leader to tackle the mobile computing challenge.

Krzanich, who is 52 and spent his entire career at the company, comes out of a manufacturing organization where meticulous attention is required to churn out processors with billions of minute details. □

## Las Vegas, Macau help MGM Resorts beat 1Q expectations

**HANNAH DREIER**

**Associated Press**

**LAS VEGAS (AP)** — MGM Resorts International reported a surprise profit for its first quarter on the strength of room bookings and gambling tables on the Las Vegas Strip and continued profits in Macau. CEO Jim Murren called the results the best first quarter since the beginning of the recession five years ago, and shares rallied in morning trading.

"This is the beginning of a new era for MGM," he said on a conference call with analysts.

MGM earned \$6.5 million, or 1 cent per share, in the first three months of the year, rebounding from a loss of \$217.3 million, or 44 cents per share, a year ago. Analysts polled by FactSet were expecting a loss of 10 cents per share.

One of the four major U.S. casino companies, MGM Resorts operates 15 casinos in Nevada, Mississippi

and Michigan, including Las Vegas Strip casinos CityCenter, Bellagio, Mandalay Bay, Luxor and MGM Grand. It also is the majority owner of MGM China Holdings Ltd., which operates the MGM Macau casino-resort and is developing a new Cotai resort.

Casinos in the U.S. have been slower to recover from the economic downturn, and gambling companies have looked abroad for growth. Macau, the only place in China where casino gambling is legal, has been the gambling capital of the world since 2006. MGM still has much of its business in on the Strip, unlike its major rivals Las Vegas Sands Corp. and Wynn Resorts International. Those companies both reported gains for the first three months of the year because of their Macau resorts, while Caesars Entertainment, which has no presence in Macau, reported a loss. □

## GM profit falls 14 pct in 1Q; EU loss narrows for the year

**DEE-ANN DURBIN**

**AP Auto Writer**

**DETROIT (AP)** — General Motors' net income fell 14 percent in the first quarter, as it earned less money in North America while preparing to launch a redesigned version of its best-selling vehicle, the Silverado pickup.

GM earned \$865 million, or 58 cents per share, down from \$1 billion, or 60 cents per share, in the January-March period a year ago. But excluding one-time items, GM's earnings of 67 cents per share topped analysts' forecast for 54 cents, according to FactSet.

Revenue also topped Wall Street's expectations, and the company lost less money in Europe than a year ago.

GM's shares rose 5 percent to \$31.68 in morning trading. At one point, they hit \$31.75, the highest level since July 2011. They're up 8 percent since the begin-

ning of this year.

Worldwide sales rose 3.6 percent to more than 2.3 million. GM had record sales in China, its biggest market. And the automaker boosted its share of the North American market as sales in the U.S. rose 9 percent.

GM's earnings in North America fell 12.5 percent from a year ago to \$1.4 billion. Chief Financial Officer Dan Ammann said GM shipped fewer pickup trucks ahead of the launch of its newly redesigned Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra full-size pickups. Those go on sale in a few weeks. Auto companies book profits on a vehicle when it leaves the factory.

GM's report echoed Chrysler Group's earlier this week. Chrysler also reduced vehicle shipments ahead of the launch of the new Jeep Cherokee, and its earnings tumbled 65 percent to \$166 billion. □



## Mutts



## 6 Chix



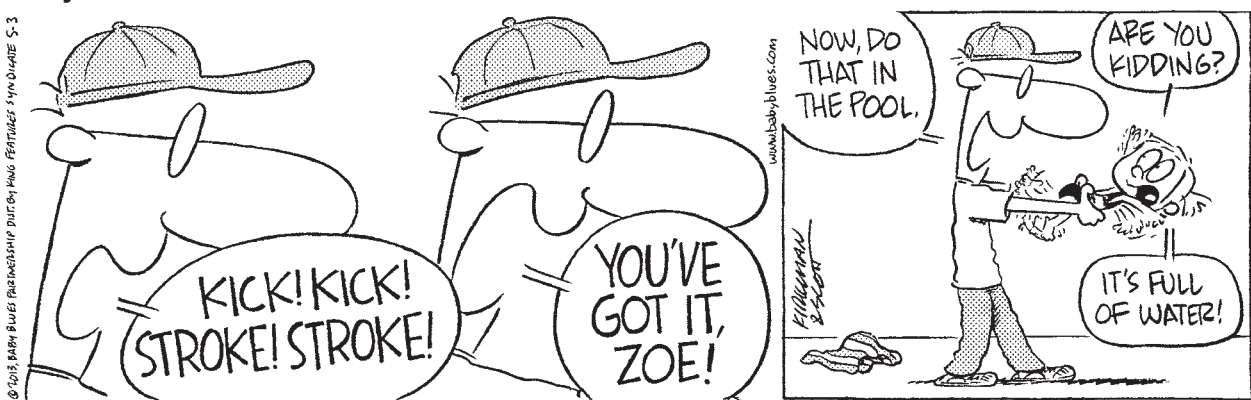
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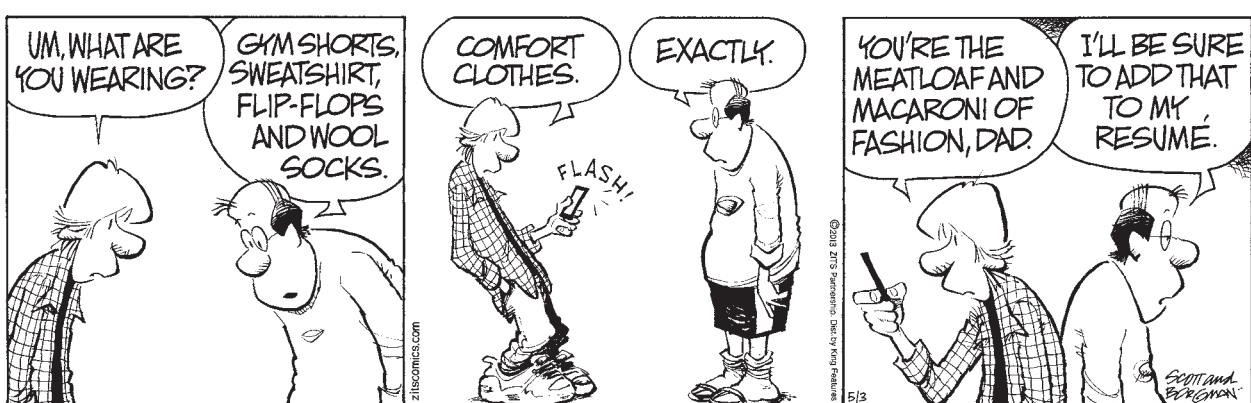
## Mother Goose & Grimm



## Baby Blues



## Zits



## Conceptis Sudoku

	8		6	7		4	9	
9					4			6
3								
	9							7
4				9				3
2							6	
								2
5			1					9
	1	6		2	7		5	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

5/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

4	2	5	6	3	9	1	7	8
3	6	8	5	7	1	2	4	9
1	7	9	4	2	8	3	6	5
7	3	6	2	5	4	9	8	1
5	8	1	3	9	7	6	2	4
2	9	4	8	1	6	7	5	3
9	1	2	7	4	5	8	3	6
8	4	3	1	6	2	5	9	7
6	5	7	9	8	3	4	1	2

## ACROSS

- Encountered
- Late mum of Prince William
- Donahue or Mickelson
- Not closed
- Gold bar
- Suffer defeat
- Small rodents
- Move over
- Travelers' lodges
- Sparkling drink
- Acquires
- Golfing pegs
- Letters on a speedometer
- Severe experience
- Desire to eat
- Seashore
- Fraternity letter
- Adriatic or Mediterranean
- Cargo
- Zones
- Jolts
- up; spend
- Perfect
- Rib good-naturedly
- Shy
- Package
- Hawaiian ring
- & feathers; punishes, old-style
- Luau dance
- Avoids
- Perched upon
- Burst forth
- Slangy reply
- Enthusiastic supporters
- Cowboy competition
- Couch
- "My Country, 'Tis of"
- Derisive smile
- Tennis court divider

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13			14	15					16		
17				18					19		
	20			21					22		
			23			24	25				
26	27	28			29	30			31	32	33
34				35					36		
37				38					39		
40				41				42			
43		44					45				
		46				47					
48	49	50		51	52	53			54	55	
56				57					58		59
60				61					62		
63				64					65		

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

5/3/13

## Thursday's Puzzle Solved

SIPS	SWAMI	ACME
LOOT	HELEN	LAI
EWER	ELITE	TANG
DAMAGED	APLENTY	
NAP	ALTAR	
STAGS	SRS	CEASE
WIRE	BIB	MEDIAN
ITS	FURIOUS	DIE
SHOALS	TUG	HELM
HENRY	PER	SUDSY
METER	COD	
IMMORAL	SADDLES	
BEAR	ILIAD	LOLA
ISLE	LEDGE	EWES
SHED	STOAT	DEES

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5/3/13

- Georgia
- Atlanta college
- Drive away, as one's fears
- Indians of Peru
- Very excited
- Lunchtime
- Endeavors
- Sad situation
- Sharpen
- Common contraction
- Not as much
- Most orderly
- Veal or venison
- Pod vegetable
- Happen
- Waken
- Valleys
- of time; early
- Ring out
- Sir Newton
- Unwilling to say much
- Portrait stand
- Sequoia or spruce
- Consultants

## DOWN

- Parent
- Heroic tale

- "The Ranger"
- Metal whose symbol is Fe
- City fellow on a ranch
- Lowly laborer
- Bank vault
- Head topper



# Eds: Notes that report deals with new generation of high-tech weaponry

PETER JAMES SPIELMANN  
Associated Press

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)** — Killer robots that can attack targets without any human input "should not have the power of life and death over human beings," a new draft U.N. report says.

The report for the U.N. Human Rights Commission posted online this week deals with legal and philosophical issues involved in giving robots lethal powers over humans, echoing countless science-fiction novels and films. The debate dates to author Isaac Asimov's first rule for robots in the 1942 story "Run-around:" "A robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm." Report author Christof Heyns, a South African professor of human rights law, calls for a worldwide moratorium on the "testing, production, assembly, transfer, acquisition, deployment and use" of killer robots until an international conference can develop rules for their use. His findings are due to be debated at the Human Rights Council in Geneva on May 29.

According to the report, the United States, Britain, Israel, South Korea and Japan have developed various types of fully or semi-autonomous weapons. In the report, Heyns focuses on a new generation of weapons that choose their targets and execute them. He calls them "lethal autonomous robotics," or LARs for short, and says: "Decisions over life and death in armed conflict may require compassion and intuition. Humans — while they are fallible — at

least might possess these qualities, whereas robots definitely do not."

He notes the arguments of robot proponents that death-dealing autonomous weapons "will not be susceptible to some of the human shortcomings that may undermine the protection of life. Typically they would not act out of revenge, panic, anger, spite, prejudice or fear. Moreover, unless specifically programmed to do so, robots would not cause intentional suffering on civilian populations, for example through torture. Robots also do not rape."

The report goes beyond the recent debate over drone killings of al-Qaida suspects and nearby civilians who are maimed or killed in the air strikes. Drones do have human oversight. The killer robots are programmed to make autonomous decisions on the spot without orders from humans. Heyns' report notes the increasing use of drones, which "enable those who control lethal force not to be physically present when

it is deployed, but rather to activate it while sitting behind computers in far-away places, and stay out of the line of fire.

"Lethal autonomous robotics (LARs), if added to the arsenals of States, would add a new dimension to this distancing, in that targeting decisions could be taken by the robots themselves. In addition to being physically removed from the kinetic action, humans would also become more detached from decisions to kill - and their execution," he wrote. His report cites these examples, among others, of fully or semi-autonomous weapons that have been developed:

— The U.S. Phalanx system for Aegis-class cruisers, which automatically detects, tracks and engages anti-air warfare threats such as anti-ship missiles and aircraft.

— Israel's Harpy, a "Fire-and-Forget" autonomous weapon system designed to detect, attack and destroy radar emitters. □

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# US: Many causes for dramatic bee disappearance

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A new U.S. report blames a combination of problems for a mysterious and dramatic disappearance of honeybees across the country since 2006.

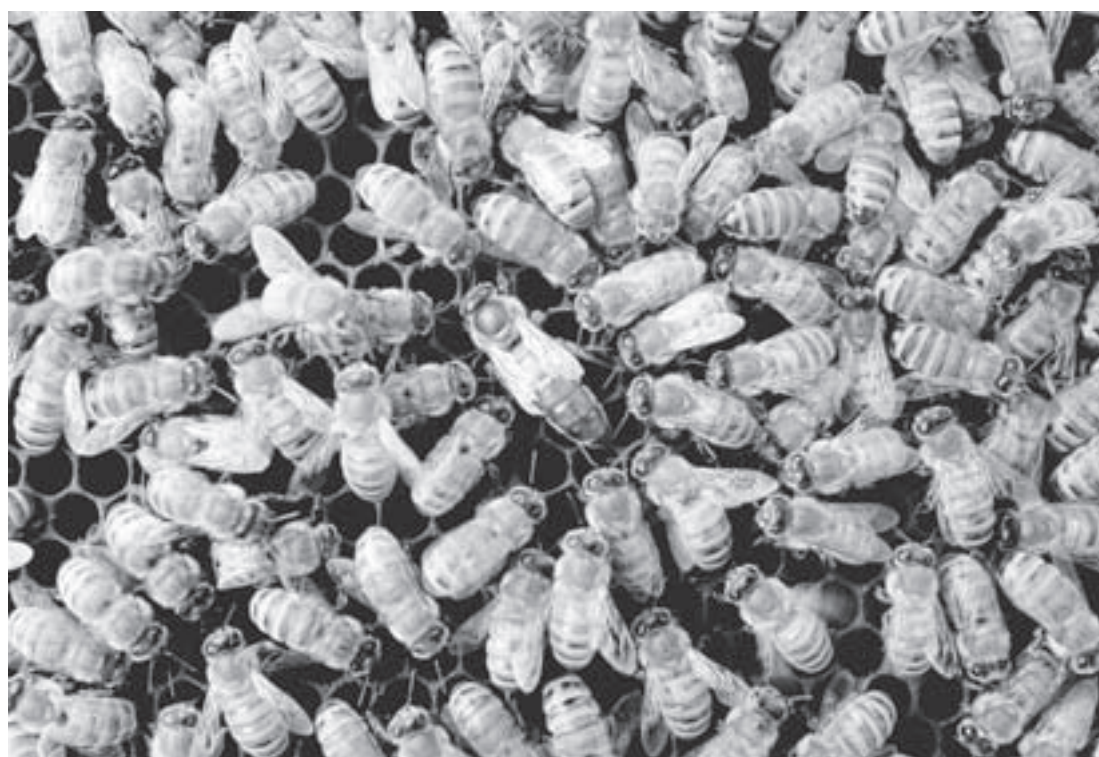
The multiple causes make it harder to do something about what's called colony collapse disorder, experts say. The disorder has caused as much as one-third of the nation's bees to just disappear each winter since 2006. Bees, especially honeybees, are needed to pollinate crops, and they are crucial to the U.S. food supply. About \$30 billion a year in agriculture depends on their health, said Sonny Ramaswamy with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The problem has also hit bee colonies in Europe, where regulators are considering a ban on a type of pesticides that some environmental groups blame for the bee collapse.

The report, issued Thursday by the USDA and the Environmental Protection Agency, is the result of a large conference of scientists that the government brought together last year to figure out what's going on.

The factors cited for the bees' disappearance include a parasitic mite, multiple viruses, bacteria, poor nutrition, genetics, habitat loss and pesticides. The report said the biggest culprit is the parasitic mite varroa destructor, calling it "the single most detrimental pest of honeybees."

The report also cites pesticides, but near the bottom of the list of factors. And federal officials and researchers advising them



This April 25, 2007 file photo shows a colony of honeybees at the Agriculture Department's Bee Research Laboratory in Beltsville, Md.

said the science doesn't justify a ban of the pesticides yet.

May Berenbaum, chairwoman of a major National Academy of Sciences study on the loss of pollinators, said the class of chemicals known as neonicotinoids hasn't been proven to be the sole culprit in the bee loss. In an interview, she said she was "extremely dubious" that banning the chemical would have any effect on bee health and that more than 100 different chemicals have been found in bee colonies.

Dave Gaulson of the University of Stirling in Scotland, who conducted a study last year that implicated the chemical, said he can't disagree with the overall conclusions of the U.S. government report. However, he said it could have emphasized pesticides more.

At a news conference with federal officials, Berenbaum said there's no single solution to the bee problem: "We're not really well equipped or even used to

fighting on multiple fronts." Besides making honey, honeybees pollinate more than 90 flowering crops. About one-third of the human diet comes from in-

sect-pollinated plants, and the honeybee is responsible for 80 percent of that pollination.

"It affects virtually every American whether they realize it or not," said EPA acting administrator Bob Perciasepe. Zac Browning, a fourth-generation commercial beekeeper, said the nation is "on the brink" of not having enough bees to pollinate its crops.

University of Maryland entomologist David Inouye, president-elect of the Ecological Society of America, was not part of the federal report. He said the problems in Europe and United States may be slightly different. In the U.S., bee hives are trucked from farm to farm to pollinate large tracts of land and that may help spread the parasites and disease, as well as add stress to the colonies, while in Europe they stay put, so those issues may not be as big a factor. □

**Associated Press**

## IBM makes tiny movie by pushing molecules around



In this undated image taken from video and provided by IBM, a boy composed of carbon monoxide molecules rides a skateboard in a scene from what IBM claims to be the world's tiniest stop-action movie.

**Associated Press**

**WHITE PLAINS, New York (AP)** — Scientists have taken the idea of a film short down to new levels. Molecular levels.

IBM says it has made the tiniest stop-motion movie ever — a one-minute video of individual carbon mon-

oxide molecules repeatedly rearranged to show a boy dancing, throwing a ball and bouncing on a trampoline.

Each frame measures 45 by 25 nanometers — there are 25 million nanometers in an inch — but hugely magnified, the movie is

reminiscent of early video games, particularly when the boy bounces the ball off the side of the frame accompanied by simple music and sound effects. The movie is titled "A Boy and His Atom."

Videos showing atoms in motion have been seen before but Andreas Heinrich, IBM's principal scientist for the project, said Tuesday this is the first time anything so small has been maneuvered to tell a story. "This movie is a fun way to share the atomic-scale world," Heinrich said. "The reason we made this was not to convey a scientific message directly, but to engage with students, to prompt them to ask questions."

Jamie Panas of Guinness World Records said Guinness certified the movie as "Smallest Stop-Motion Film." □

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# Lawyer: Lindsay Lohan checks into California rehab

**ANTHONY MCCARTNEY**

**AP Entertainment Writer**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** —

Lindsay Lohan's attorney said Thursday the actress checked into a California rehab facility,

but a state official said it is unlicensed to perform the type of treatment a judge required the actress to receive in a misdemeanor driving case.

Mark Jay Heller told a judge that Lohan was settling in at Morningside Recovery and argued that the actress should be allowed to stay until a judge approves her placement.

"My client is ensconced in the bosom of that facility right now," Heller argued after a prosecutor objected to Lohan's choice of fa-

cilities. "She's in rehab right now. Nothing bad is going to happen."

Celebrity website TMZ reported Lohan was shopping at an electronics store while her attorney was in court and that she never entered Morningside.

Hours after the hearing, Millicent Tidwell, acting deputy director of licensing and certification for the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, said Morningside did not have the appropriate licenses to provide residential treatment or recovery programs.

Lohan's sentence requires her to serve 90 days in a lockdown rehab facility. The actress crashed her car in June while on the way

to a film shoot and pleaded no contest in March to reckless driving and lying to police.

Morningside Recovery disputed that it was unlicensed.

"We have successfully treated thousands of patients through our program, many of which have been ordered to us by state and federal courts," Morningside's CEO Mary Helen Beaticato wrote in a statement.

Tidwell said her agency was considering enforcement action against Morningside based on Heller's statements, but she declined to elaborate.

Superior Court Judge James R. Dabney agreed in the hearing that Lohan



This April 11, 2013 file photo shows actress Lindsay Lohan, a cast member in "Scary Movie V," at the premiere of the film in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

should remain at Morningside, although the actress' whereabouts were unknown.

White did not return a phone message seeking comment seeking information on whether Lohan had checked in. Tidwell did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Lohan also was found in violation of her probation in a 2011 necklace theft and sentenced to 180 days behind bars, but her jail term can be avoided if she complies with the full terms of her sentence, which include community labor and 18 months of psychological therapy. □

## Bon Jovi applauds law to help overdose victims



Singer Jon Bon Jovi, center, stands next to Pamela Sanquini, left, whose son Matthew overdose at the age of 20, and Jill LaZare, right, whose daughter Brooke overdose at age 23, as they listen to New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie talks about the signing of a good Samaritan bill intended to assure that a fear of prosecution doesn't get in the way of medical help for overdose victims, Thursday, May 2, 2013, in Paterson, N.J.

**PATERSON, New Jersey (AP)**

— Jon Bon Jovi joined New Jersey's governor Thursday for the signing of a law to encourage reporting of overdoses so victims don't end up dead.

The singer's daughter survived a drug overdose months ago.

Bon Jovi called the law a lifesaver and encouraged

other states to do the same. The law seeks to assure timely medical treatment for overdose victims by encouraging people to seek help without fear of being arrested for drug possession. Bon Jovi's daughter overdosed at college in New York state last year. Prosecutors dropped drug charges against Stepha-

nie Bongiovi and another student under that state's good Samaritan overdose-reporting law. Bon Jovi, who has a home in New Jersey, did not bring up his daughter's case at the bill-signing.

In a December interview, Bon Jovi said he was shocked to learn of her overdose. □

Associated Press

## Witherspoon: I lied about pregnancy during arrest



This image released by ABC news shows co-host George Stephanopoulos, left, interviewing actress Reese Witherspoon on "Good Morning America," Thursday, May 2, 2013 in New York.

Associated Press

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Reese Witherspoon recalled that she panicked, said some "crazy things" and even claimed to be pregnant the night she was arrested on a disorderly conduct charge. During an interview Thursday on ABC, Witherspoon repeatedly apologized for her behavior during the April 19 traffic stop. A police report states

that Witherspoon asked a Georgia state trooper, "Do you know my name?" and added, "You're about to find out who I am."

In her first sit-down interview about the arrest, the Oscar-winning actress said she had "one too many" glasses of wine and panicked after she and her husband were pulled over. □



# YouTube says the battle with TV is already over

**JAKE COYLE**

**AP Entertainment Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — YouTube vs. TV? YouTube says the battle — if there ever was one — is over.

In a flashy presentation to advertisers Wednesday night, Google Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt declined to forecast that Internet video will displace television watching. Instead he declared: "That's already happened."

Schmidt said "the future is now" for YouTube, which recently passed the milestone of 1 billion unique visitors every month. But, he added with the Third World in mind, if you think that's a large number, "wait until you get to 6 (billion) or 7 billion."

Schmidt and YouTube, which billed the event as a "brandcast," shifted away from the video platform's relationship to TV. A year ago, YouTube seemed to have its sights set on reinventing television by funding the launch of more than 100 channels from well-known media brands and Hollywood personalities. But that initiative went unmentioned at Wednesday's presentation, held at a Lower East Side pier



In this Friday, March 22, 2013, Google Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt gestures during an interactive session with group of students at a technical university in Yangon, Myanmar

Associated Press

as part of a week of "NewFronts," (digital media's version of the TV tradition of promoting programming and selling ads). Though the model for the evening was TV, YouTube used it to distinguish itself as something entirely different.

"It's not a replacement for something that we know," said Schmidt. "It's a new thing that we have to think about, to program, to curate and build new platforms."

The presentation featured

performances by Snoop Dogg and Macklemore, as well as YouTube personalities like Felicia Day. YouTube focused on its global reach, community engagement and enormous audience.

"I thought that YouTube was like TV, but it isn't. I was wrong," said Robert Kyncl, YouTube's global head of content. "TV is one-way. YouTube talks back."

Some comparisons were inevitable. One fact highly touted was that more

18- to 34-year-olds watch YouTube than any cable network.

"TV means reach," said Kyncl. "YouTube means engagement."

Though companies like Yahoo and AOL have used their NewFront presentations to announce new slates of original programming, YouTube made no programming announcements Wednesday night.

It did, though, announce a partnership with the Association of National Advertisers' Alliance for Family Entertainment to create more

digital family content.

YouTube also celebrated DreamWorks Animation's purchase Wednesday of the teen-focused YouTube network Awesomeness TV for \$33 million. DreamWorks CEO Jeffery Katzenberg appeared with Awesomeness founder and CEO Brian Robbins, the former "Head of the Class" actor. "This is a whole new form of content, content delivery and content consumption," said Katzenberg. "It's the medium of the future and the future has already arrived." □

## Overdose suspected in death of Kris Kross rapper



In this Feb. 23, 2013 photo, Chris Kelly of Kris Kross performs on stage at the Fox Theatre in Atlanta during the So So Def 20th Anniversary Concert.

Associated Press

**OSCAR WELLS GABRIEL II  
PHILLIP LUCAS**

**Associated Press**

**ATLANTA (AP)** — The mother of rapper Chris Kelly told authorities in Atlanta her son became sick after taking cocaine and heroin on the night before he died, according to a police report.

Kelly, half of the 1990s teen rap duo Kriss Kross, was found dead Wednesday of a suspected drug overdose. Kelly's mother, Donna Kelly Pratte, 54, and his uncle, Lamar Williams, 52, told authorities Kelly had a history of drug abuse and experienced similar episodes in the past, according to a police report.

Paramedics found Kelly, 34, unresponsive on a living room couch at his Atlanta home and tried to resuscitate him. Kelly, who

was known as "Mac Daddy," was later pronounced dead at a local hospital.

Authorities completed a physical examination of Kelly's body and a toxicology screening was being done to determine cause of death, said Betty Honey of the Fulton County Medical Examiner's office.

Kriss Kross was introduced to the music world in 1992 by music producer and rapper Jermaine Dupri after he discovered the pair at Greenbriar Mall in southwest Atlanta. Kelly performed alongside Chris Smith, who known as "Daddy Mac."

"To the world Chris was Mac Daddy but to me, he was a son I never had ...," Dupri said in a written statement Thursday.

"When I think about it, I spent more time with Chris and Chris than damn near anybody in my whole life, so you can imagine how bad this hurts," Dupri added. "I will always love you Chris, and I will never let the world forget you, may God bless your soul."

Other music industry fixtures took to Twitter to share their condolences after hearing news of Kelly's death.

The duo wore their clothes backward as a gimmick, but they won over fans with their raps.

Their first, and by far most successful song, was "Jump." □

## New documentary examines the lives of porn stars

**SANDY COHEN**

**AP Entertainment Writer**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Ever wonder what makes young, pretty, "good" girls pursue careers in porn?

So did Deborah Anderson, that's why she made a documentary and fine-art photography book on the subject. "Aroused" opens in select theaters Thursday and is available for download on iTunes. The book is available on Amazon.

Many of the 16 adult-film actresses featured in "Aroused" attended the film's premiere Wednesday night at the Landmark Theatre and hung around afterward to autograph the coffee-table book.



Anderson was inspired to explore these women's stories after casting a porn star in a photo shoot for a magazine. She was struck by the woman's warm per-

sonality and her stories of harsh treatment from the public despite contributing to a widely consumed product of a billion-dollar industry. □



## The Story Of Our Time



**PAUL KRUGMAN**  
© 2013 New York Times

Those of us who have spent years arguing against premature fiscal austerity have just had a good two weeks. Academic studies that supposedly justified austerity have lost credibility; hard-liners in the European Commission and elsewhere have softened their rhetoric. The tone of the conversation has definitely changed.

My sense, however, is that many people still don't understand what this is all about. So this seems like a good time to offer a sort of refresher on the nature of our economic woes, and why this remains a very bad time for spending cuts.

Let's start with what may be the most crucial thing to understand: The economy is not like an individual family.

Families earn what they can, and spend as much as they think prudent; spending and earning opportunities are two different things. In the economy as a whole, however, income and spending are interdependent: My spending is your income, and your spending is my income. If both of us slash spending at the same time, both of our incomes will fall too. And that's what happened after the financial crisis of 2008. Many people suddenly cut spending, either because they chose to or because their creditors forced them to; meanwhile, not many people were able or willing to spend more. The result was a plunge in incomes that also caused a plunge in employment, creating the depression that persists to this day.

Why did spending plunge? Mainly because of a burst housing bubble and an overhang of private-sector debt – but if you ask me, people talk too much about what went wrong during the boom years and not enough about what we should be doing now. For no matter how lurid the excesses of the past, there's no good reason that we should pay for them with year after year of mass unemployment.

So what could we do to reduce unemployment? The answer is, this is a time for above-normal government spending, to sustain the economy until the private sector is willing to spend again. The crucial point is that under current conditions, the government is not, repeat not, in competition with the private sector. Government spending doesn't divert resources away

from private uses; it puts unemployed resources to work. Government borrowing doesn't crowd out private investment; it mobilizes funds that would otherwise go unused.

Now, just to be clear, this is not a case for more government spending and larger budget deficits under all circumstances – and the claim that people like me always want bigger deficits is just false. For the economy isn't always like this – in fact, situations like the one we're in are fairly rare. By all means let's try to reduce deficits and bring down government indebtedness once normal conditions return and the economy is no longer depressed. But right now we're still dealing with the aftermath of a once-in-three-generations financial crisis. This is no time for austerity.

OK, I've just given you a story, but why should you believe it? There are, after all, people who insist that the real problem is on the economy's supply side: that workers lack the skills they need, or that unemployment insurance has destroyed the incentive to work, or that the looming menace of universal health care is preventing hiring, or whatever.

How do we know that they're wrong?

Well, I could go on at length on this topic, but just look at the predictions the two sides in this debate have made. People like me predicted right from the start that large budget deficits would have little effect on interest rates, that large-scale "money printing" by the Fed (not a good description of actual Fed policy, but never mind) wouldn't be inflationary, that austerity policies would lead to terrible economic downturns. The other side jeered, insisting that interest rates would skyrocket and that austerity would actually lead to economic expansion. Ask bond traders, or the suffering populations of Spain, Portugal and so on, how it actually turned out.

Is the story really that simple, and would it really be that easy to end the scourge of unemployment? Yes – but powerful people don't want to believe it. Some of them have a visceral sense that suffering is good, that we must pay a price for past sins (even if the sinners then and the sufferers now are very different groups of people). Some of them see the crisis as an opportunity to dismantle the social safety net. And just about everyone in the policy elite takes cues from a wealthy minority that isn't actually feeling much pain.

What has happened now, however, is that the drive for austerity has lost its intellectual fig leaf, and stands exposed as the expression of prejudice, opportunism and class interest it always was.

And maybe, just maybe, that sudden exposure will give us a chance to start doing something about the depression we're in. □



## When Immigrant Assimilation Stalls



**ROSS DOUTHAT**  
© 2013 New York Times

The immigration legislation percolating in the Senate has been pitched as an all-things-to-all-factions compromise. Illegal immigrants will be regularized, but most of them will have to wait at least a decade to gain citizenship. There will be more visas and new guest-worker programs, but also stiffer enforcement on the border and in workplaces.

The bill's real priority, though, is to accelerate existing immigration trends. The enforcement mechanisms phase in gradually, with ambiguous prospects for success, while the legislation's impact on migration would be immediate: more paths to residency for foreigners, instant legal status for the 11 million here illegally, and the implicit promise to future border-crossers that some kind of amnesty always comes to those who come and wait. Today, almost 25 percent of working-age Americans are first-generation immigrants or their children. That figure is up sharply since the 1960s, and it's projected to climb to 37 percent by 2050. A vote for the Senate legislation would be a vote for that number to climb faster still. The bill has been written this way because America's leadership class, Republicans as well as Democrats, assumes that continued mass immigration is exactly what our economy needs. As America struggles to adapt to an aging population, the bill's supporters argue, immigrants offer youth, vitality and tax dollars. As we try to escape economic stagnation, mass immigration promises an extra shot of growth.

Is there any reason to be skepti-

cal of this optimistic consensus? Actually, there are two: the assimilation patterns for descendants of Hispanic (particularly Mexican) immigrants and the socioeconomic disarray among the native-born poor and working class.

Conservatives have long worried that recent immigrants from Latin America would assimilate more slowly than previous new arrivals – because of their sheer numbers and shared language, and because the U.S. economy has changed in ways that make it harder for less-educated workers to assimilate and rise.

As my colleague David Leonhardt wrote recently, those fears seem unfounded if you look at second-generation Hispanics, who make clear progress – economic, educational and linguistic – relative to their immigrant parents.

But there's a substantial body of literature showing that progress stalling out, especially for Mexican-Americans, between the second generation and the third. A 2002 study, for instance, reported that despite "improvements in human capital and earnings" for second-generation Mexican immigrants, the third generation still "trails the education and earnings of the average American" and shows little sign of catching up. In their 2009 book "Generations of Exclusion," the sociologists Edward Telles and Vilma Ortiz found similar stagnation and slippage for descendants of Mexican immigrants during the second half of the 20th century.

As National Review's Reihan Salam points out, even a recent Pew study painting an optimistic portrait of assimilation also shows third-generation (and higher) Hispanics with lower household incomes than the second generation.

This past need not predict the future. Maybe things will turn out better for the descendants of people arriving now.

But it's pretty easy to see how the third-generation stall-out

could continue, given the trends – unemployment, family breakdown, weakening communal ties – already working against social mobility in America.

These trends mean that we're asking low-skilled immigrants to assimilate into a working class that's already in crisis. We're hoping that our dysfunctional educational system can prevent millions more children from assimilating downward into what sociologists have called a "rainbow underclass." We're also betting that the growing incomes of second-generation Hispanics will outweigh their retreat from marriage and rising out-of-wedlock birthrates.

All these bets may pay off. But maybe, just maybe, we should be hedging them a bit. If we want to regularize 11 million illegal immigrants, for instance, does it make sense to layer bigger guest-worker programs on top of amnesty? If we care about workplace enforcement, why not phase it in more completely before offering legal status to the undocumented? If we want to increase immigration overall, shouldn't we consider tilting the balance much, much more toward higher-skilled immigrants than the current legislation does?

On a blackboard in an economics classroom, the case for mass immigration looks airtight. But many of America's economic difficulties are rooted in social and cultural problems, and a policy that just ignores those problems is a policy that's likely to make them worse.

In the end, the promise of American life is more than just a bigger paycheck than foreign economies supply. It's a promise of social equality, intergenerational advancement and fluid lines of class. The fact that so many people around the world still find that promise appealing is a wonderful thing. But it's also important to be sure, while we decide how many of them to welcome and how fast, that we can still deliver on it. □



# Silicon Valley: put your money where your mouth is

JENNA WORTHAM  
CLAIRE CAIN MILLER  
© 2013 New York Times

What if the next big thing in tech does not arrive on your smartphone or in the cloud? What if it lands on your plate?

That idea is enticing a wide group of venture capitalists in Silicon Valley into making big bets on food.

In some cases, the goal is to connect restaurants with food purveyors, or to create on-demand delivery services from local farms, or ready-to-cook dinner kits. In others, the goal is to invent new foods, like creating cheese, meat and egg substitutes from plants. Since this is Silicon Valley money, though, the ultimate goal is often nothing short of grand: transforming the food industry. "Part of the reason you're seeing all these VCs get interested in this is the food industry is not only is it massive, but like the energy industry, it is terribly broken in terms of its impact on the environment, health, animals," said Josh Tetrick, founder and chief executive of Hampton Creek Foods, a startup making egg alternatives.

Some investors say food-related startups fit into their sustainability portfolios, alongside solar energy or electric cars, because they aim to reduce the toll on the environment of producing animal products. For others, they fit alongside health investments like fitness devices and heart rate monitoring apps. Still others are eager to tackle a real-world problem, instead of building virtual farming games or figuring out ways to get people to click on ads.

"There are pretty significant environmental consequences and health issues associated with sodium or high-fructose corn syrup or eating too much red meat," said Samir Kaul, a partner at Khosla Ventures, which has invested in a half-dozen food startups. "I wouldn't bet my money that Cargill or ConAgra are going to innovate here. I think it's going to take start-

ups to do that."

In the last year, venture capital firms in the valley have funneled about \$350 million into food projects, and investment deals in the sector were 37 percent higher than the previous year, according to a recent report by CB Insights, a venture capital database. In 2008, that figure was less than \$50 million.

That money is just a slice of the \$30 billion that venture capitalists invest annually, but it is enough to help finance an array of food startups.

seeing that happen with food and beverage."

Still, some tech analysts and venture capitalists are skeptical that these companies, with their factories and perishable products, can reach the scale and market valuations of big Internet companies.

"I don't see a multimillion-dollar business coming out of any of these companies," said Susan Etlinger, an analyst with the Altimeter Group, a firm that advises companies on how to use technology. "The majority of Americans will

contradiction, though, because that movement also shuns processed food and is decidedly low-tech.

"It's not Franken-food," Kaul of Khosla Ventures said. "We're careful not to make it sound like some science experiment, but there is technology there." Unreal, based in Boston, makes candy that the founders say has no artificial colors or flavors, preservatives, hydrogenated fats or genetically modified ingredients, with at least 25 percent less sugar than similar candy on the

crack because it's a perishable item," said Mark Suster, an investor at GRP Partners. "The No. 1 thing VCs are looking for are scalable and repeatable, high-margin businesses. You can create those in food, it's just harder."

His firm, for instance, is tapping into the food industry by investing in Internet services like ChowNow, an online restaurant ordering company.

"Chefs spend all of their time working and at farmer's markets," said Chris Muscarella, a chef in Brooklyn who helped to found the site. "They aren't sitting in front of a computer. So the fact that you're finally getting more chefs online through mobile devices is actually a big deal for the culinary world."

Still, food startups have their own challenges that are unfamiliar to tech entrepreneurs and investors, like a broken-down delivery truck or a bad oyster. These setbacks can be more difficult to recover from than a software malfunction. In the early days of Plated, for instance, which sells ready-to-make dinner kits for recipes like Greek lamb burgers with cucumber salad, the founders sank \$15,000 into building a customized refrigerated warehouse in Queens. Then they discovered that it would not cool lower than 70 degrees, unsuitable for food handling and preparation.

"We just had to walk away from that investment," said Nick Taranto, one of the founders.

Bill Maris, a partner at Google Ventures, the search giant's investment arm, has not yet put money into any food-related companies. But he said he was closely watching the trend. He said, "Startups are unpredictable and all these companies are trying to take advantage of new technology and markets that are changing."

But, he added, "in 2000, the same questions were asked about YouTube and no one knew how it would even work, let alone become a business." □



**Candy made by Unreal, a candy company that says it uses 25 percent less sugar than other candy on the market, at the company's offices in Boston, April 26, 2013. Some venture capitalists have veered to fund startups with food oriented projects, the newest wave of businesses seeking to use technology to change the way people buy food, and in some cases to invent entirely new foods or like Unreal's approach to its candy.** (Bryce Vickmark/The New York Times)

The venture capital firms helping to finance these businesses are some of the valley's most prominent names, in addition to Khosla: SV Angel, Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers, True Ventures and the Obvious Collection. Celebrities from Hollywood (Matt Damon), pro football (Tom Brady) and the tech world more broadly (Bill Gates) have also joined in.

"Consumers are interested in sophisticated experiences that are beautifully delivered, which we've seen happen on the Web and with products like the iPhone," said Tony Conrad, a partner at True Ventures, which was an early investor in the coffee company Blue Bottle. "Now, we're

not likely be able to participate, they're simply too expensive for them."

Venture capitalists have strayed from pure technology to food before. Restaurant chains like Starbucks, P.F. Chang's, Jamba Juice and, more recently, the Melt, were backed by venture capital. Recipe apps and restaurant review sites like Yelp have long been popular.

But this newest wave of startups is seeking to use technology to change the way people buy food, and in some cases to invent entirely new foods. Investors are also eager to profit from the movement toward eating fewer animal products and more organic food. They face a

market and added protein and fiber. The candy is sold in stores including CVS and Target. Lyrical Foods makes cheese from almond milk and macadamia milk under the name Kite Hill, which is the first nondairy cheese to be sold by Whole Foods. Nu-Tek Salt uses potassium chloride instead of sodium chloride to lower sodium. Beyond Meat and Sand Hill Foods are making veggie burgers that their investors say taste and grill more like beef than others on the market.

Yet some investors say the projects have a better chance of success if they steer clear of selling actual food. "The food category has been a hard nut to